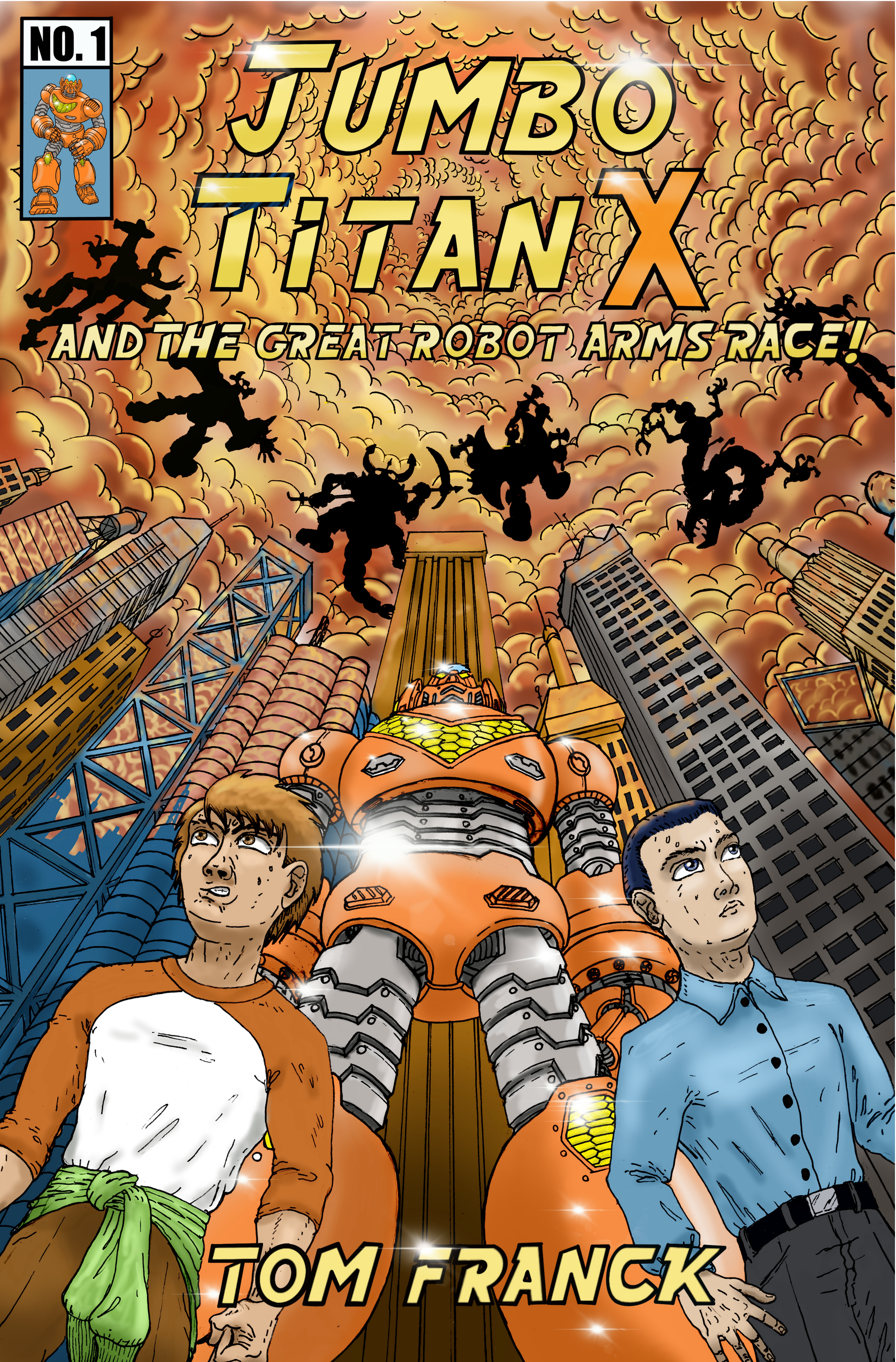
NO. 1

# JUMBO TITAN X

## AND THE GREAT ROBOT ARMS RACE!



TOM FRANCK

I don't know if "Covid Comics" will become a term to describe a spie in sequential storytelling work produced during the pandemic, but it wouldn't surprise me if it did. That aspiring creators were ignited to finally make (or, in my case, finally finish) a comic book during these crazy times makes sense. This is not merely the result of quarantine giving many people giant oceans of time to create, but, more soberingly, that Covid forced us all to confront our own mortality. None of us are around forever, and If we don't finish our comic now, perhaps we will expire before reaching the finish line. Perhaps we won't even *start* that great idea we've had for so long...

I know the title "Jumbo Titan X and the Great Robot Arms Race" may strike readers as redundant. You're saying, "Look, Tom, there's simply no such thing as a 'less-than-great-robot-arms-race,' so you really should shorten it." Point taken, but I like the title and since the comic has already been printed and there is no editorial staff to overturn me, it's what we're going with!

Arguably, the biggest hurdle in making a comic book is that we don't understand how much we don't know. Because we are new to the process, we are completely in the dark about our pace and workflow. "How much longer will I need to work on this page until it no longer sucks?" No idea. As you make huge mistakes, massive corrections and 11th hour realizations about how to make something better (or less bad) you wonder how anyone - even someone not doing this in their spare time - could meet a comic book deadline with any kind of regularity.

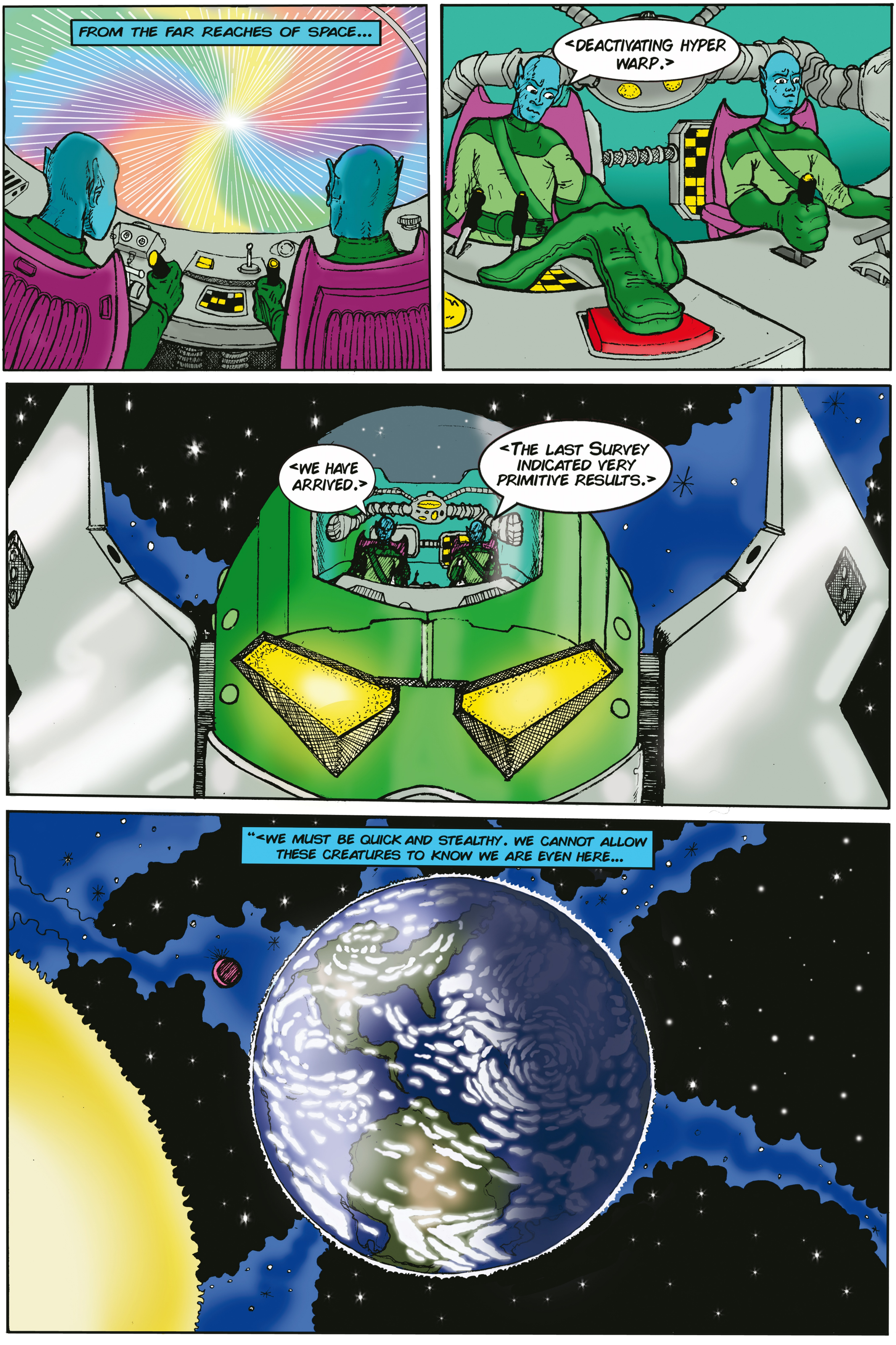
In today's day and age, the answer to that question - and an issue front-and-center to the characters in these pages - is "technology." The advancement of digital art cannot be overstated as how it relates to sequential storytelling. Software, tablets, styluses and (just as importantly) digital access to comic art instruction are all improving at light speed. Being able to hit the back button, cut-and-paste and use layers are all massive, life-saving time-savers. You wouldn't be reading this without them.

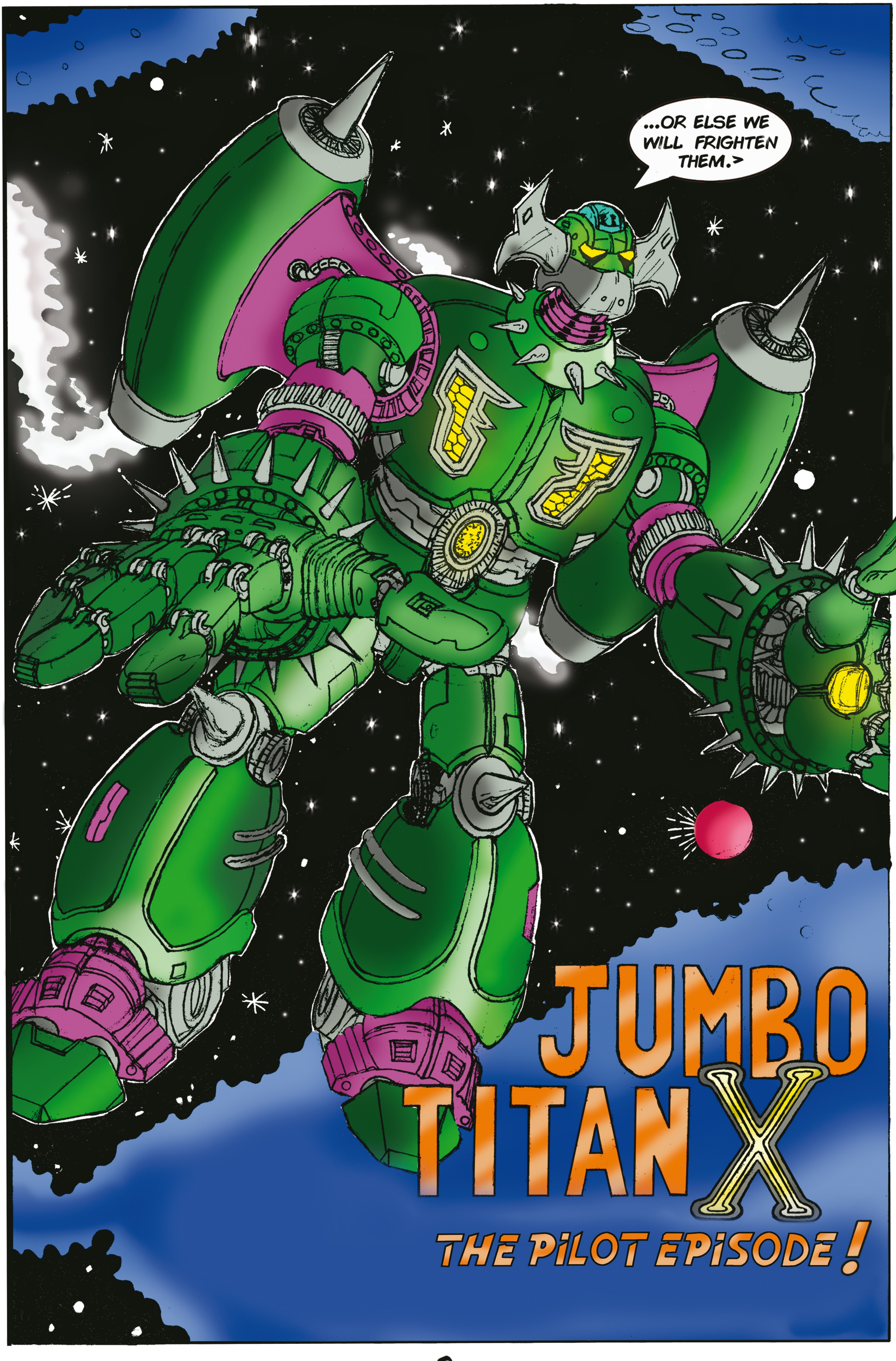
However, it's important to remember that with great artistic power comes great artistic responsibility. As powerful as this technology has become, there is a very real danger of aesthetic homogeneity in comics if one relies too heavily of digital tools. Too many hotkeys, too many gradients, too many filters can all diminish artistic personality and style. I believe finding the right balance of digital and analog in on process is one of the top issues facing artists today. The advancement of technology is a wonderful thing, but we must not become slaves to it. Hopefully the characters of Jumbo Titan X will learn this as well!

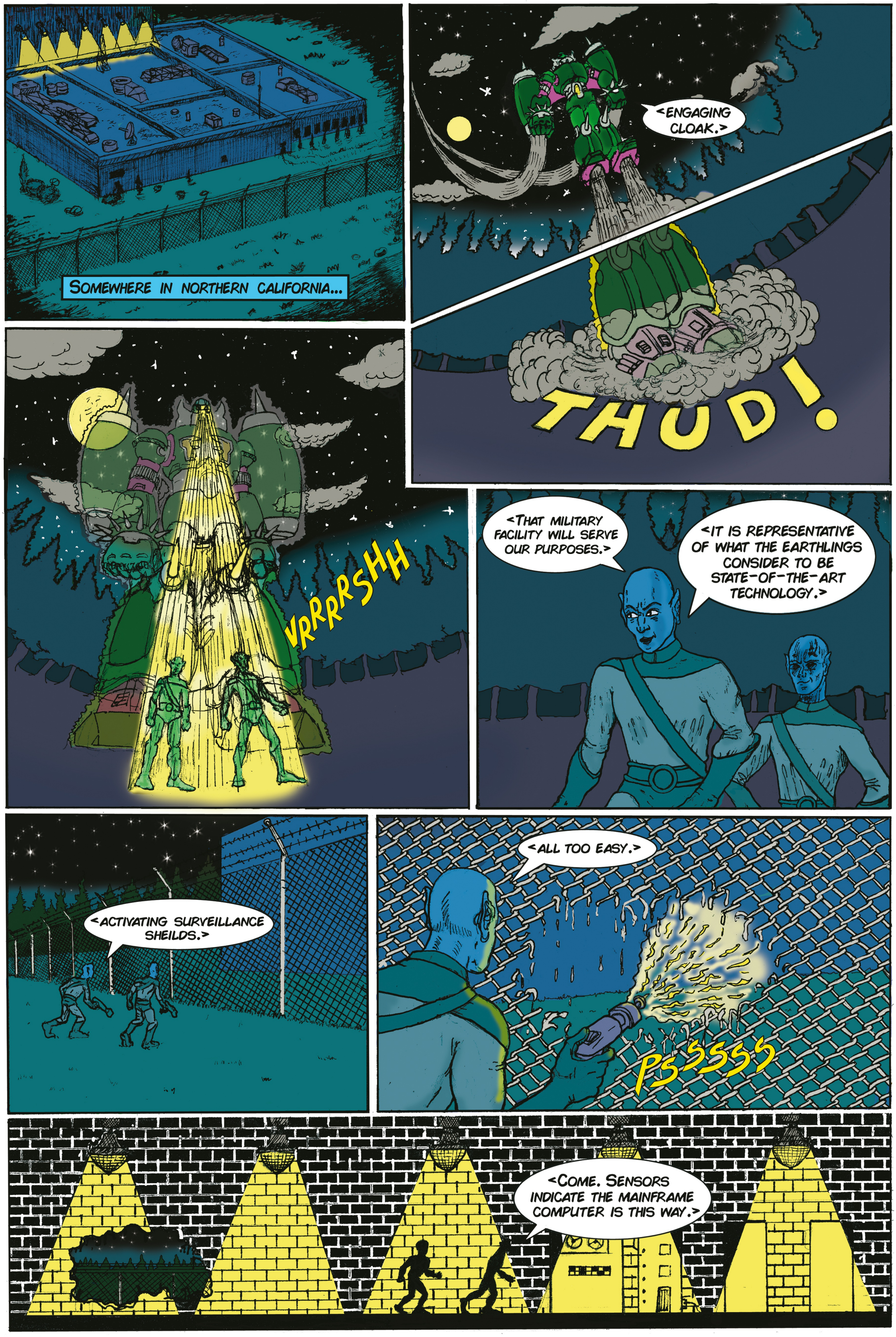
--Tom Franck

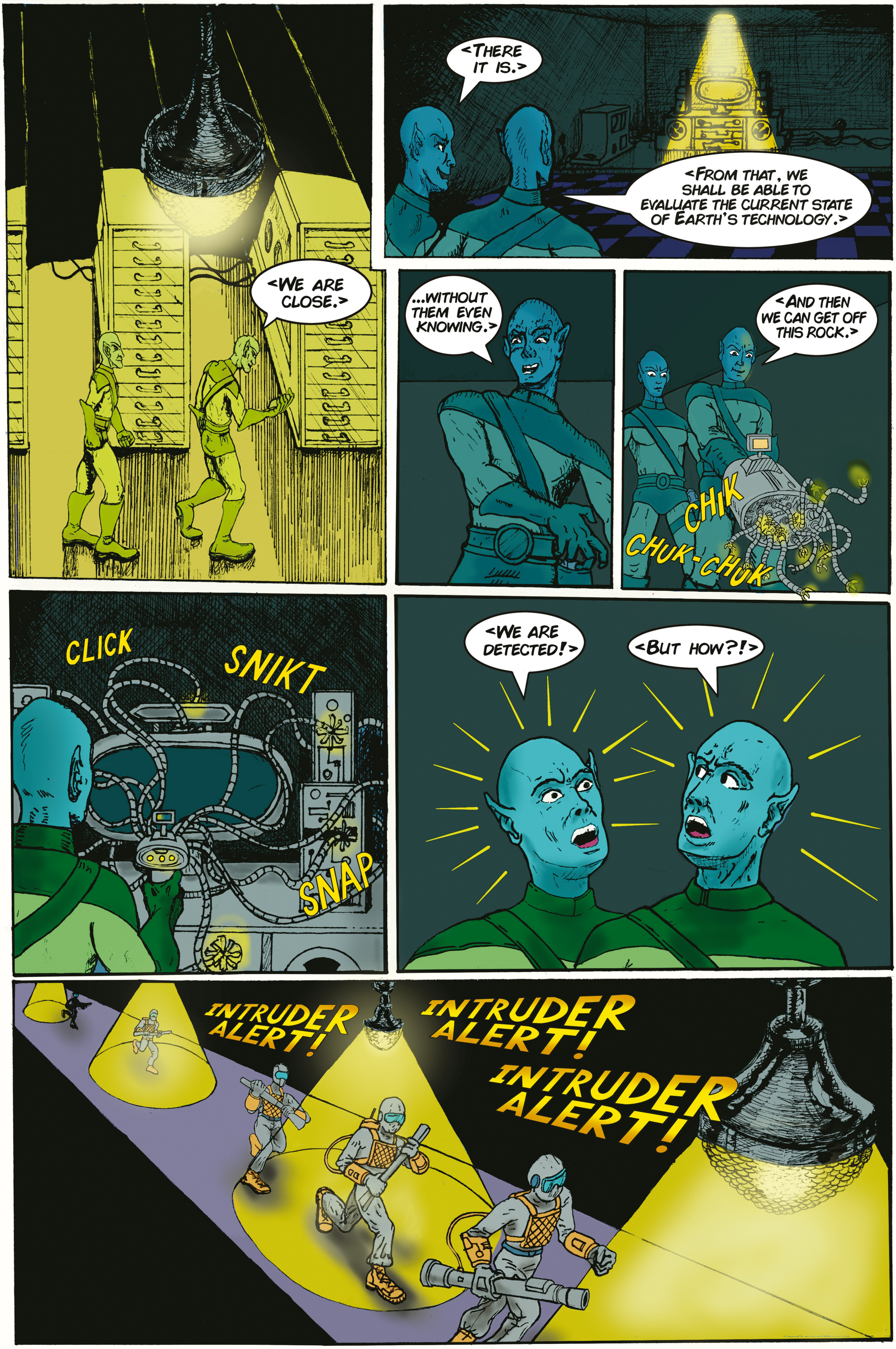
JUMBO TITAN X - ISSUE 0001 - DIGITAL PRINTING
EVERYTHING BY: TOM FRANCK
Special Thanks to: Cliff Snider, Chris Burnham,
Jeff Johnson, Ralph Miranda, Erik Sjoen,
Christian Meesey and my daughter, Miranda Franck,
for all their notes throughout the process.

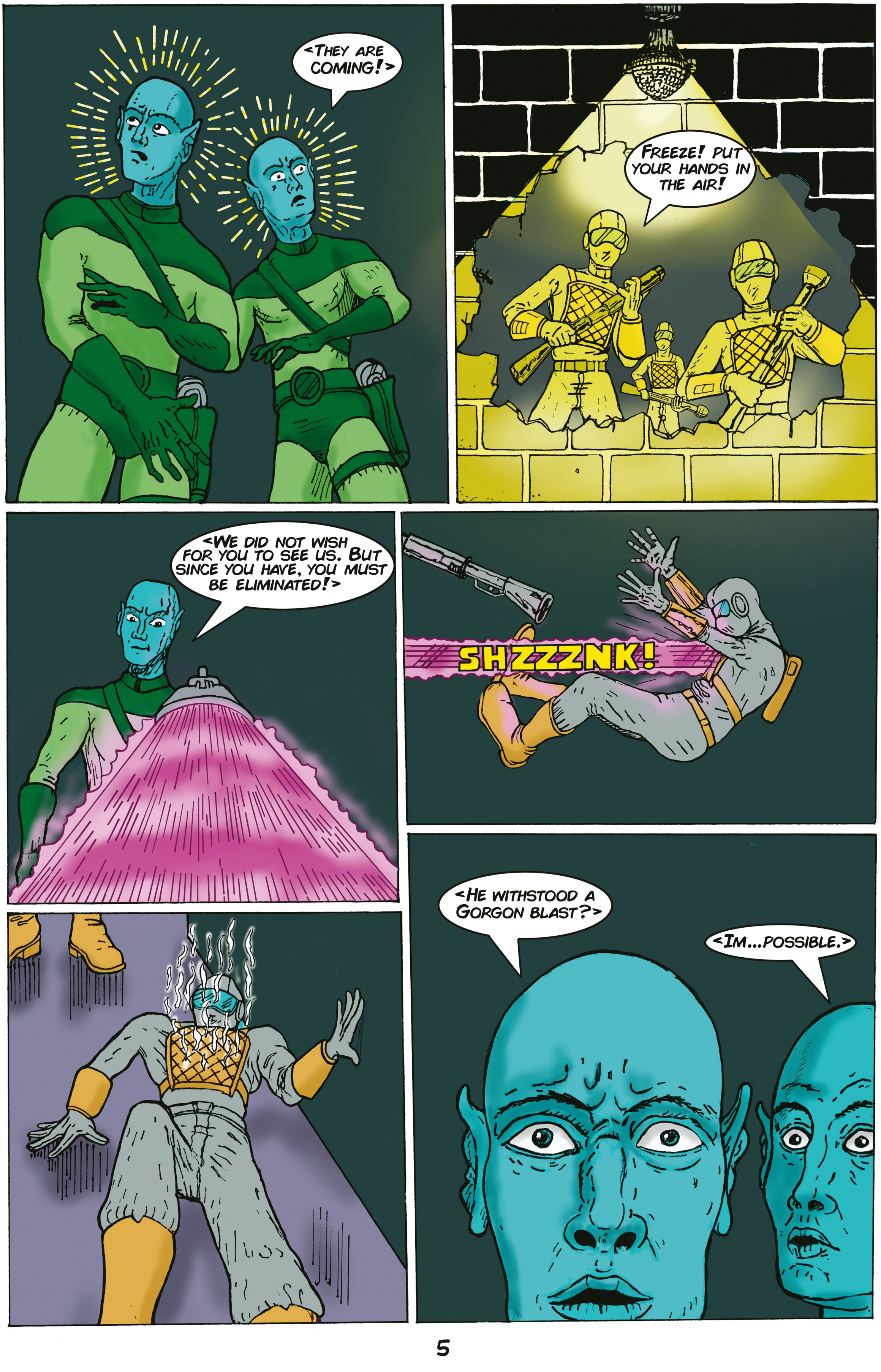
@jmachinder

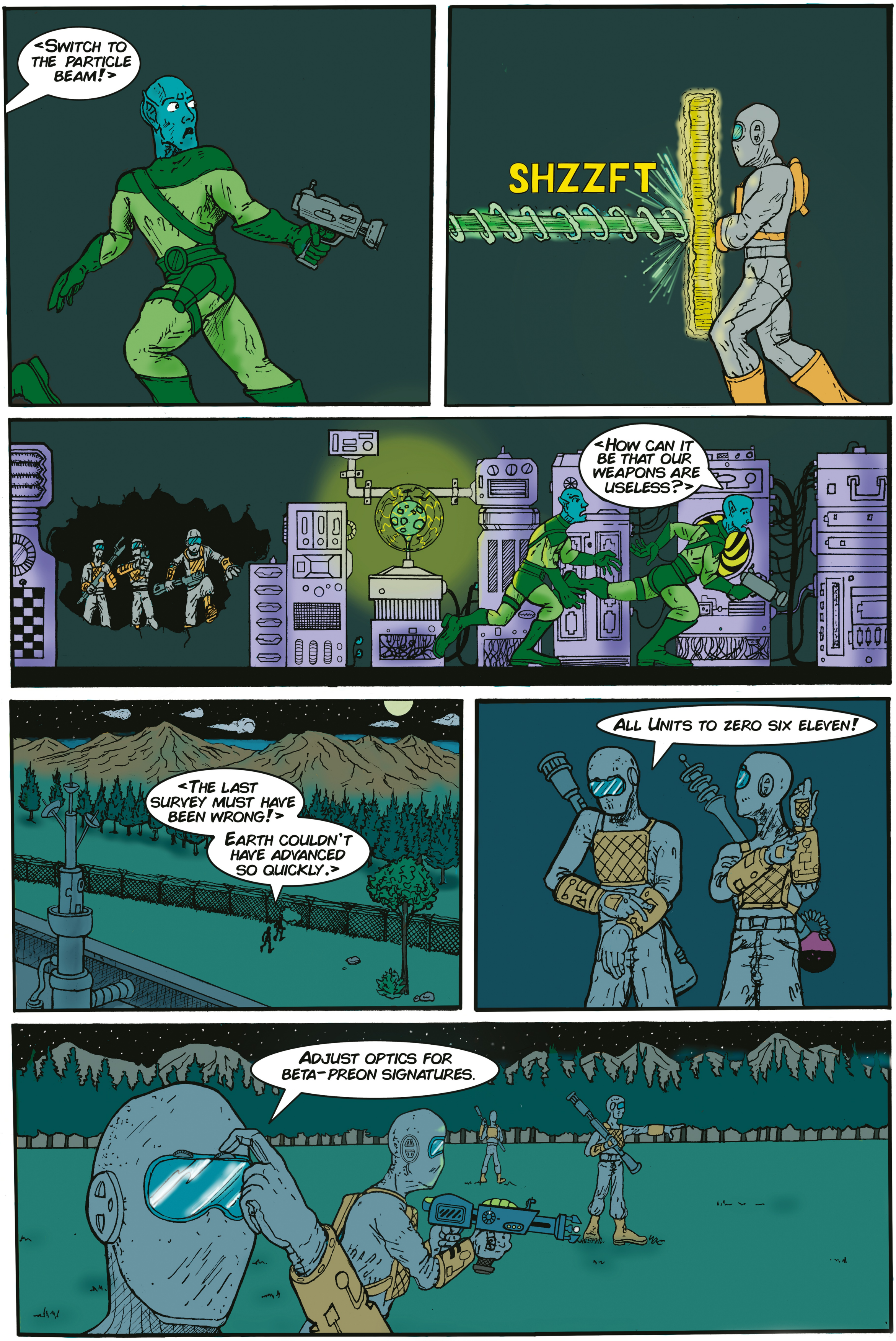

FROM THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE...
<DEACTIVATING HYPER WARP.>
<WE HAVE ARRIVED.>
<THE LAST SURVEY INDICATED VERY PRIMITIVE RESULTS.>
"<WE MUST BE QUICK AND STEALTHY. WE CANNOT ALLOW THESE CREATURES TO KNOW WE ARE EVEN HERE...

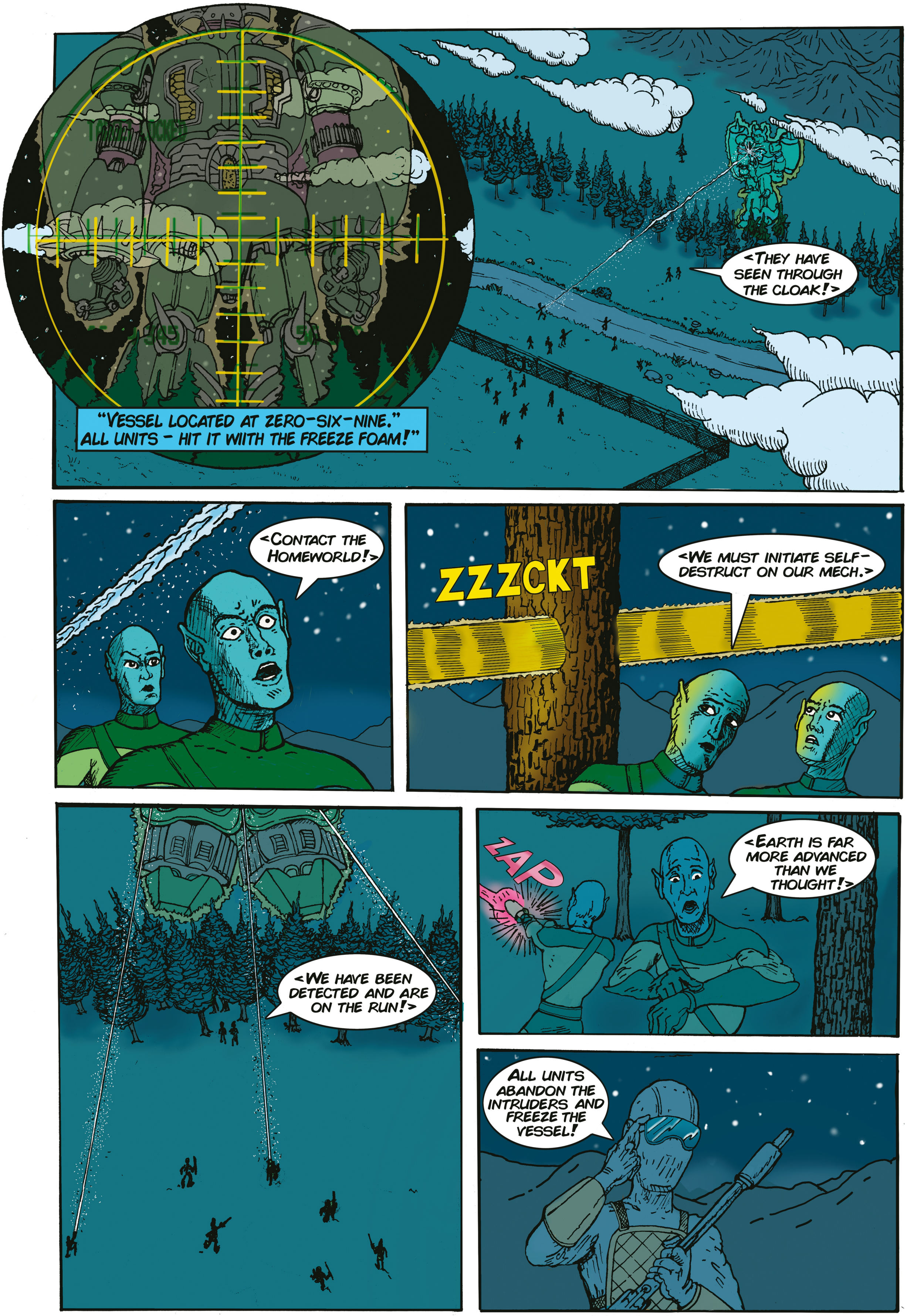

...OR ELSE WE WILL FRIGHTEN THEM.>
JUMBO TITAN X
THE PILOT EPISODE!

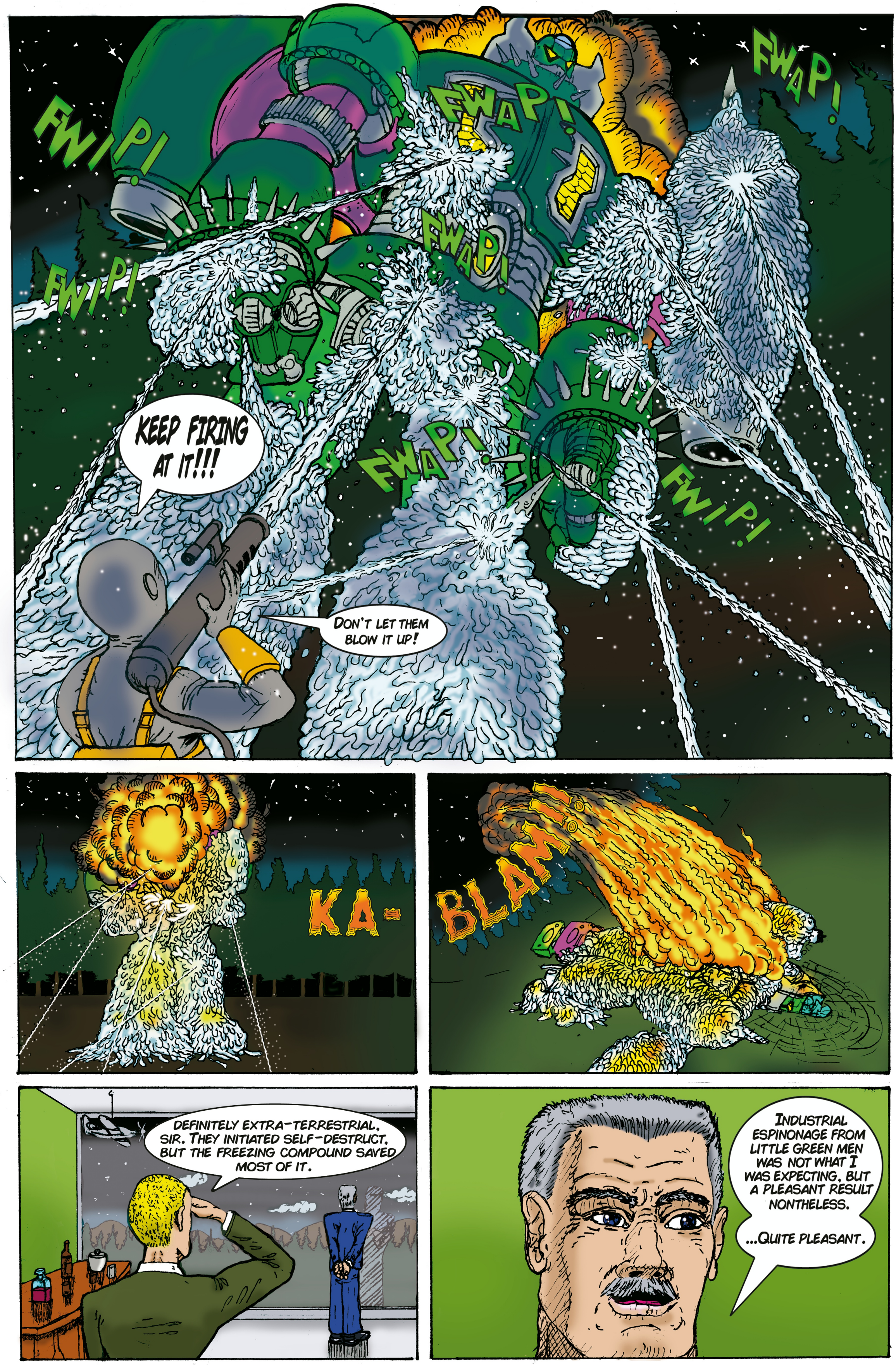

SOMEWHERE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA...
<ENGAGING CLOAK.>
THUD!
VRRRRSHH
<THAT MILITARY FACILITY WILL SERVE OUR PURPOSES.>
<IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT THE EARTHLINGS CONSIDER TO BE STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY.>
<ACTIVATING SURVEILLANCE SHEILDS.>
<ALL TOO EASY.>
PSSSSS
<COME. SENSORS INDICATE THE MAINFRAME COMPUTER IS THIS WAY.>

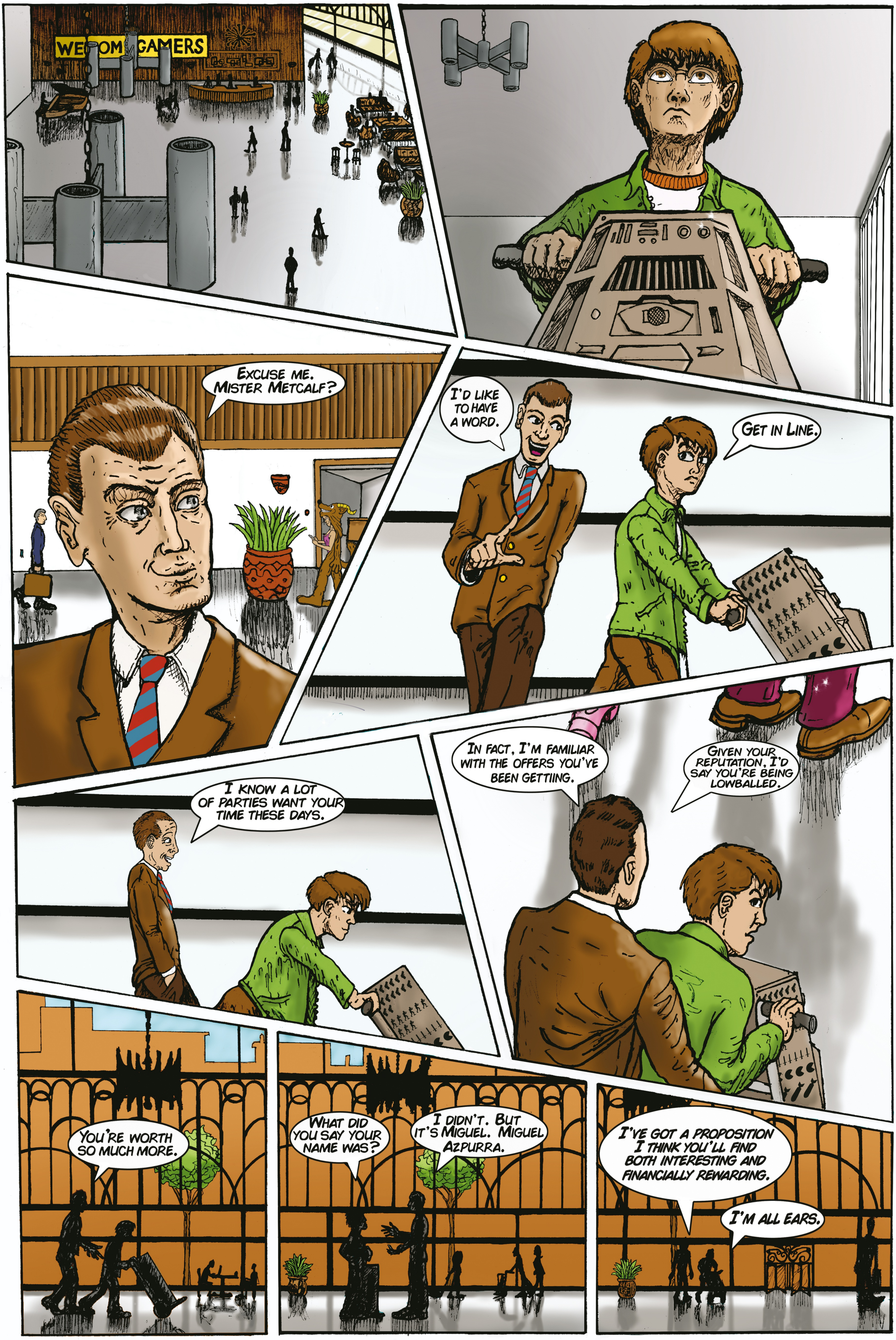

<WE ARE CLOSE.>
<THERE IT IS.>
<FROM THAT, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO EVALUATE THE CURRENT STATE OF EARTH'S TECHNOLOGY.>
...WITHOUT THEM EVEN KNOWING.>
<AND THEN WE CAN GET OFF THIS ROCK.>
CHIK
CHUK-CHUK
CLICK
SNIKT
SNAP
<WE ARE DETECTED!>
<BUT HOW?!>
INTRUDER ALERT!
INTRUDER ALERT!
INTRUDER ALERT!

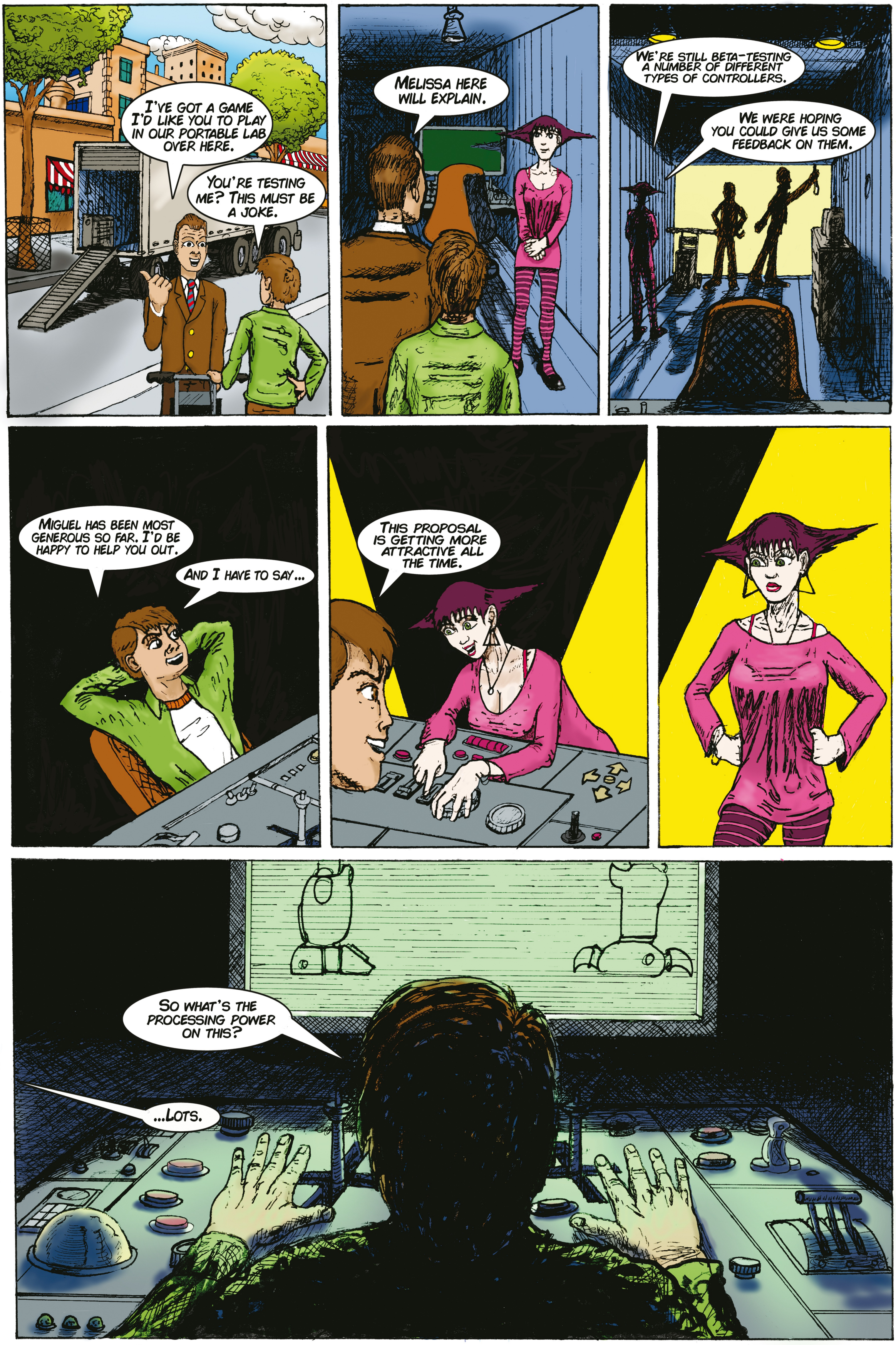

<THEY ARE COMING!>
FREEZE! PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!
<WE DID NOT WISH FOR YOU TO SEE US. BUT SINCE YOU HAVE, YOU MUST BE ELIMINATED!>
SHZZZNK!
<HE WITHSTOOD A GORGON BLAST?>
<IM...POSSIBLE.>

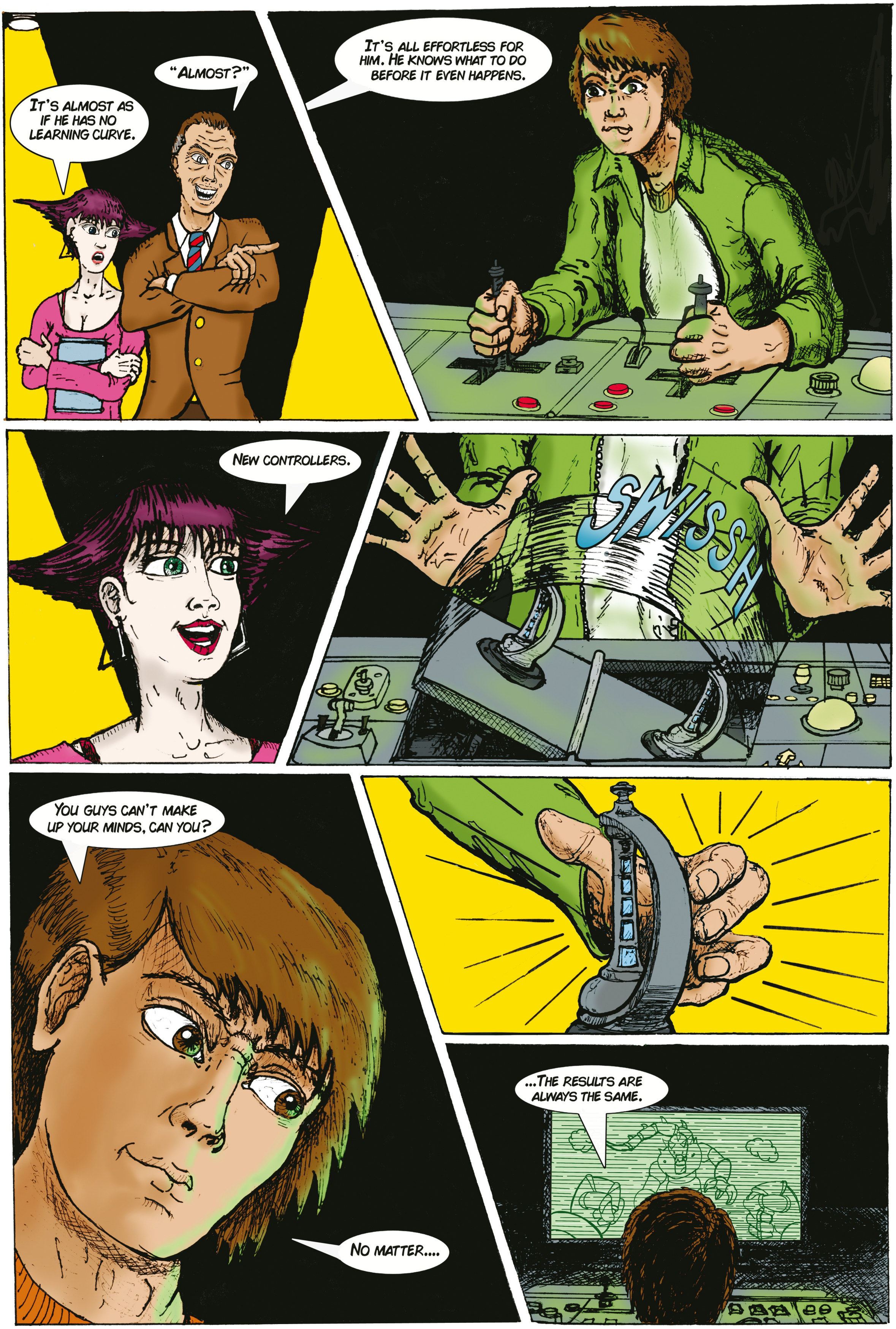

<Switch to the particle beam!>
SHZZFT
<How can it be that our weapons are useless?>
<The last survey must have been wrong!>
Earth couldn't have advanced so quickly.>
All units to zero six eleven!
Adjust optics for beta-preon signatures.

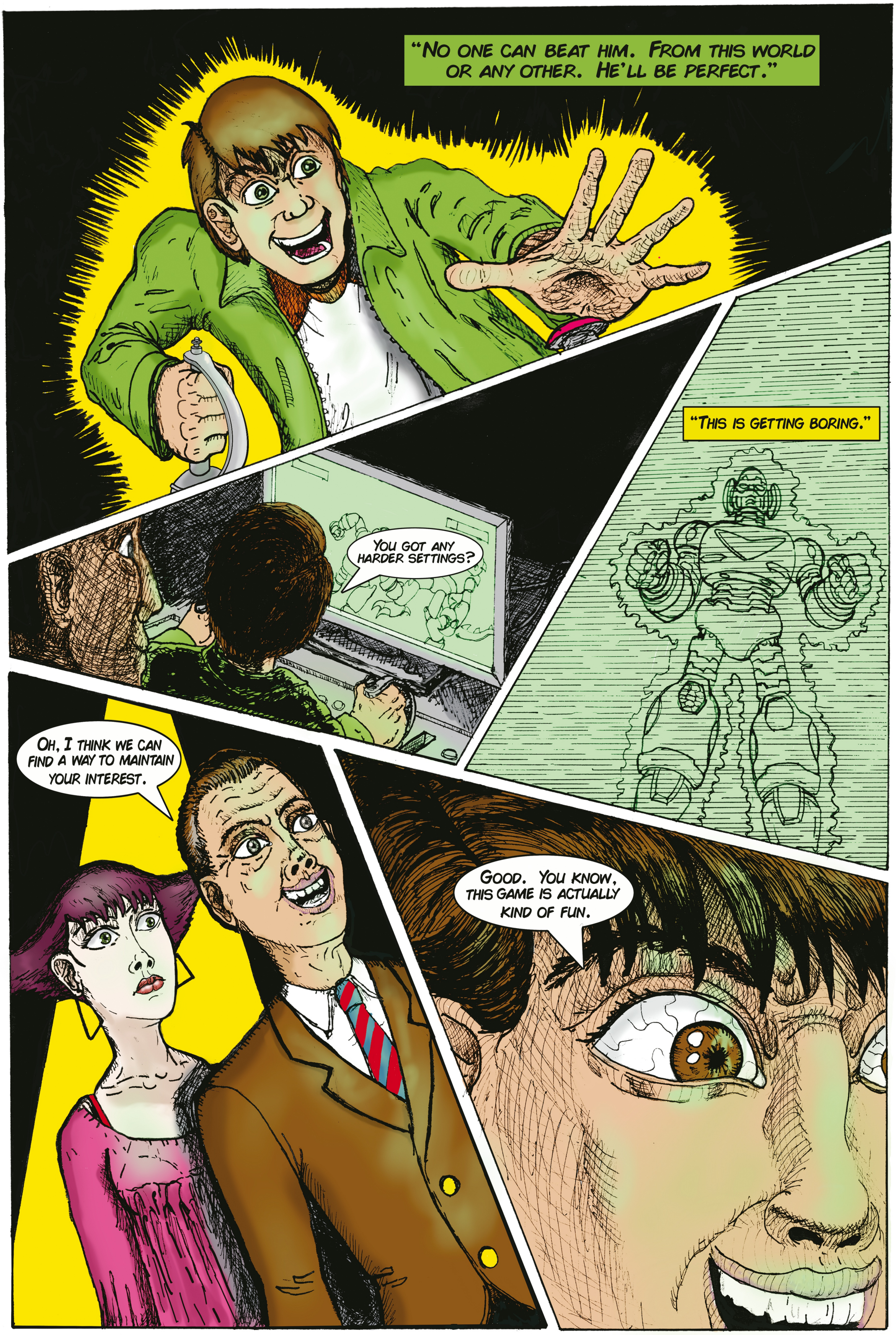

"VESSEL LOCATED AT ZERO-SIX-NINE." ALL UNITS - HIT IT WITH THE FREEZE FOAM!"
<THEY HAVE SEEN THROUGH THE CLOAK!>
<CONTACT THE HOMEWORLD!>
ZZZCKT
<WE MUST INITIATE SELF-DESTRUCT ON OUR MECH.>
<WE HAVE BEEN DETECTED AND ARE ON THE RUN!>
ZAP
<EARTH IS FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN WE THOUGHT!>
ALL UNITS ABANDON THE INTRUDERS AND FREEZE THE VESSEL!

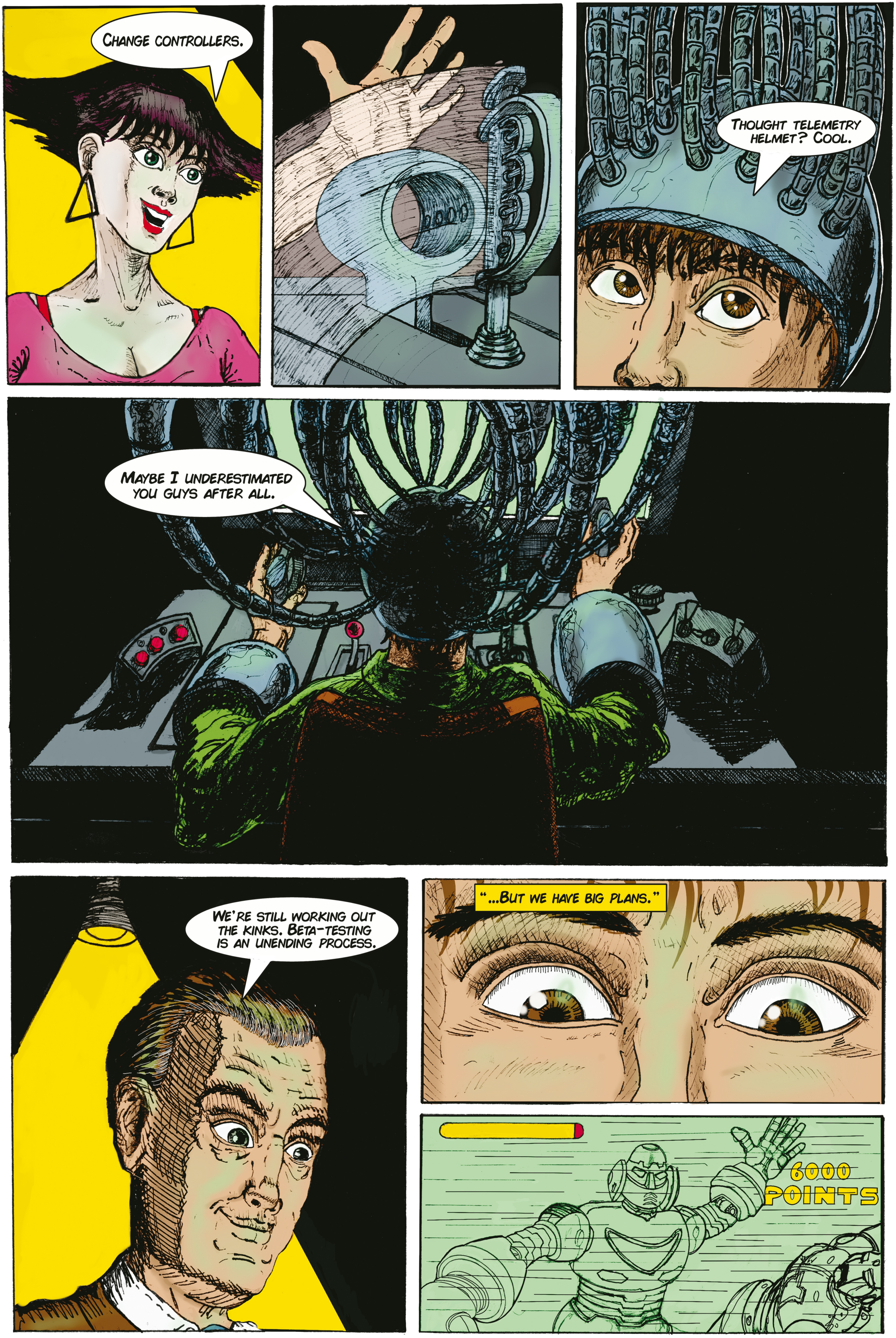

FWIP!
FWAP!
FWAP!
FWAP!
FWIP!
KEEP FIRING AT IT!!!
FWAP!
FWIP!
DON'T LET THEM BLOW IT UP!
KA-
BLAM!!
DEFINITELY EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL, SIR. THEY INITIATED SELF-DESTRUCT, BUT THE FREEZING COMPOUND SAVED MOST OF IT.
INDUSTRIAL ESPINONAGE FROM LITTLE GREEN MEN WAS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING, BUT A PLEASANT RESULT NONTHELESS.
...QUITE PLEASANT.

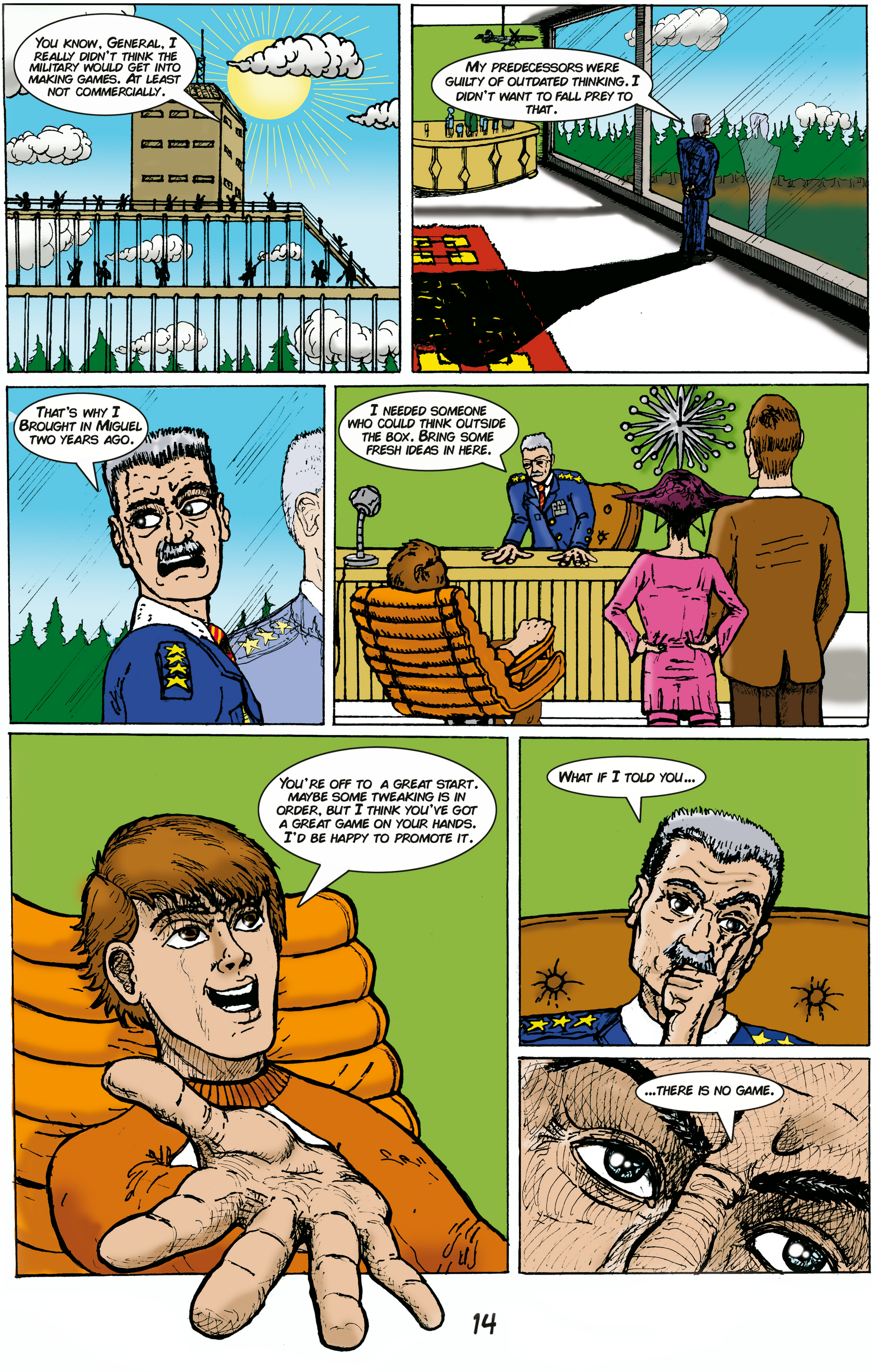

WE OM GAMERS
EXCUSE ME. MISTER METCALF?
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD.
GET IN LINE.
I KNOW A LOT OF PARTIES WANT YOUR TIME THESE DAYS.
IN FACT, I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE OFFERS YOU'VE BEEN GETTIING.
GIVEN YOUR REPUTATION, I'D SAY YOU'RE BEING LOWBALLED.
YOU'RE WORTH SO MUCH MORE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
I DIDN'T. BUT IT'S MIGUEL. MIGUEL AZPURRA.
I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION I THINK YOU'LL FIND BOTH INTERESTING AND FINANCIALLY REWARDING.
I'M ALL EARS.

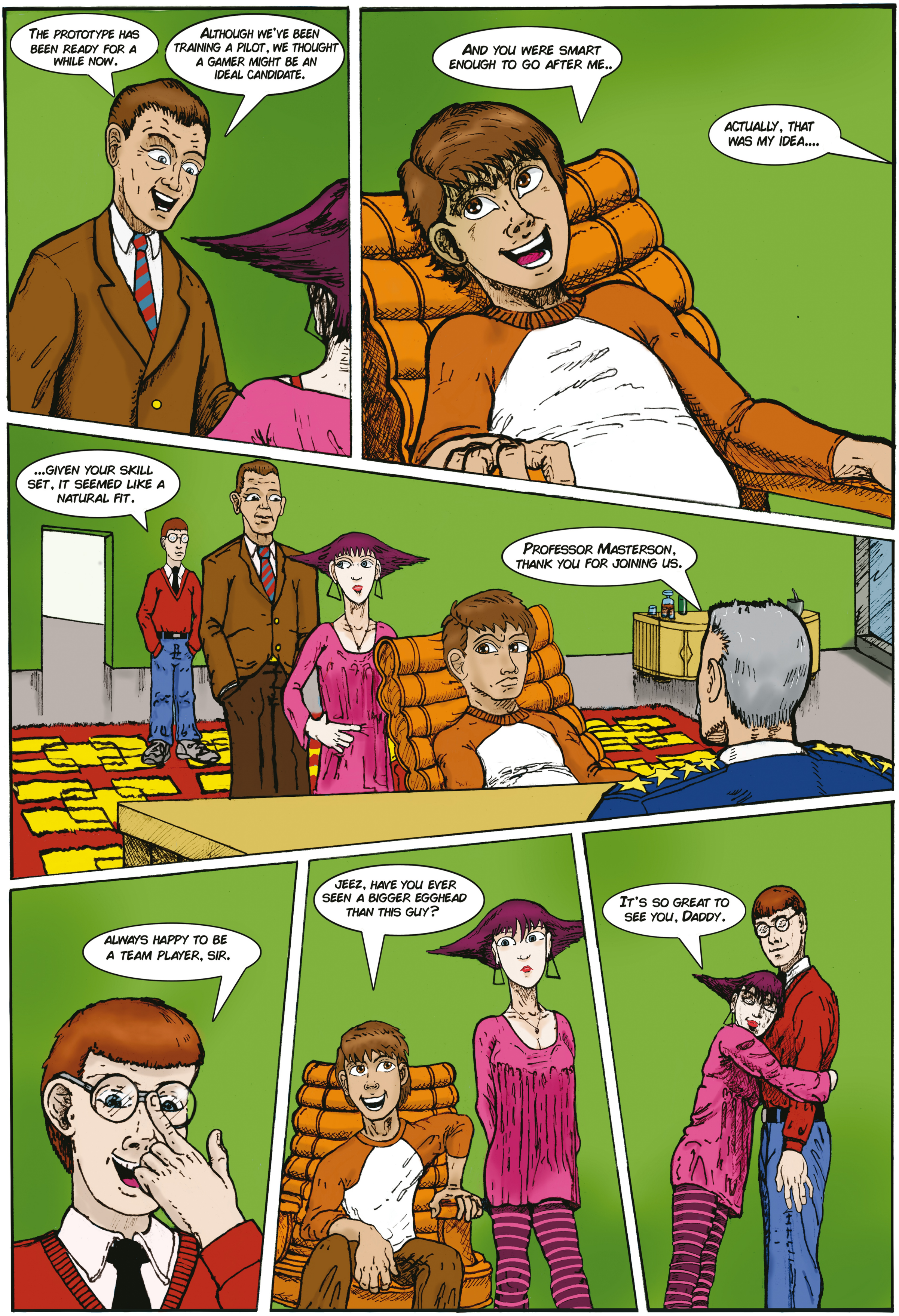

I'VE GOT A GAME I'D LIKE YOU TO PLAY IN OUR PORTABLE LAB OVER HERE.
YOU'RE TESTING ME? THIS MUST BE A JOKE.
MELISSA HERE WILL EXPLAIN.
WE'RE STILL BETA-TESTING A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CONTROLLERS.
WE WERE HOPING YOU COULD GIVE US SOME FEEDBACK ON THEM.
MIGUEL HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUS SO FAR. I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU OUT.
AND I HAVE TO SAY...
THIS PROPOSAL IS GETTING MORE ATTRACTIVE ALL THE TIME.
SO WHAT'S THE PROCESSING POWER ON THIS?
...LOTS.

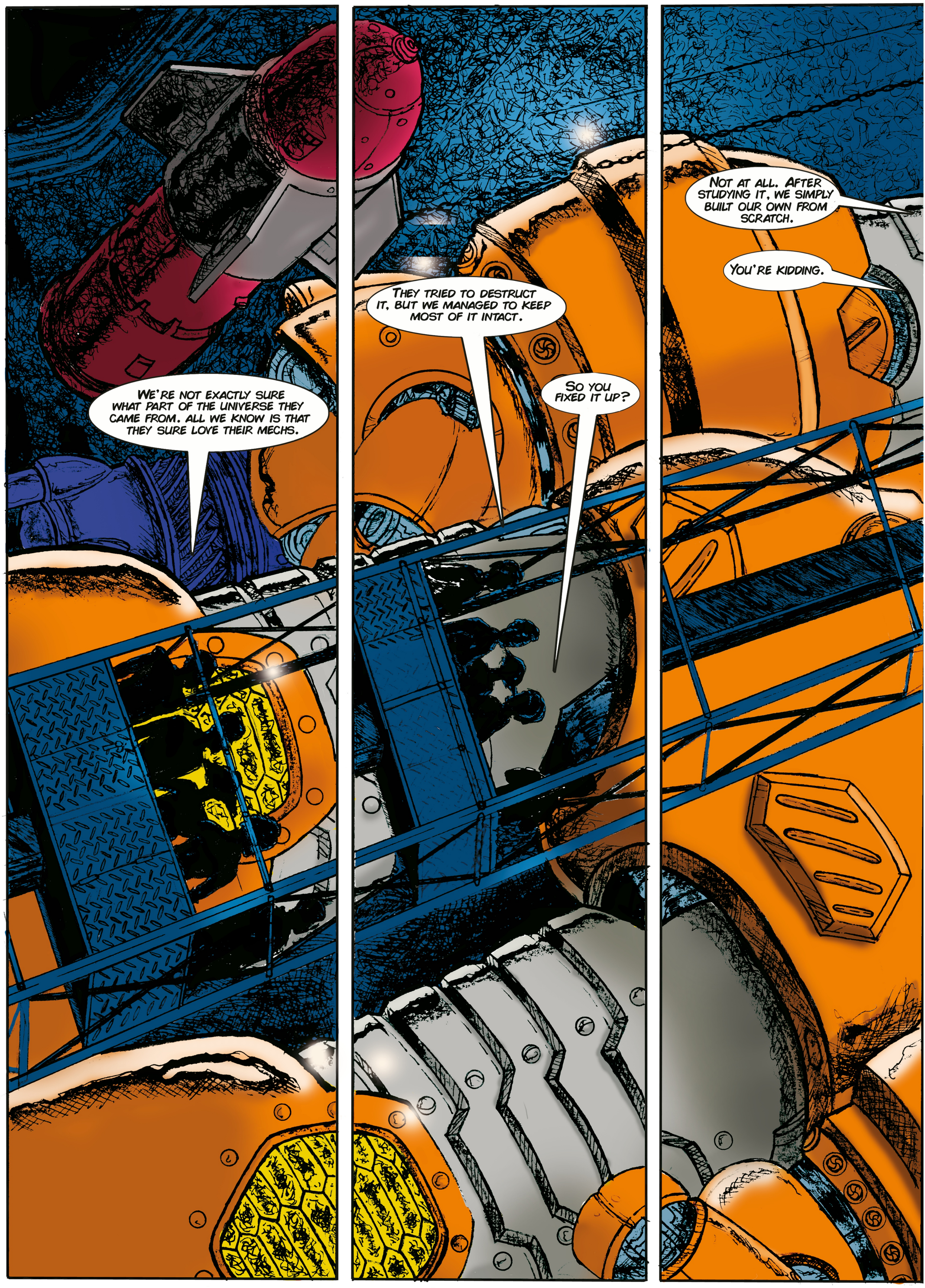

It's almost as if he has no learning curve.
"Almost?"
It's all effortless for him. He knows what to do before it even happens.
New controllers.
SWISSH
You guys can't make up your minds, can you?
No matter....
...The results are always the same.

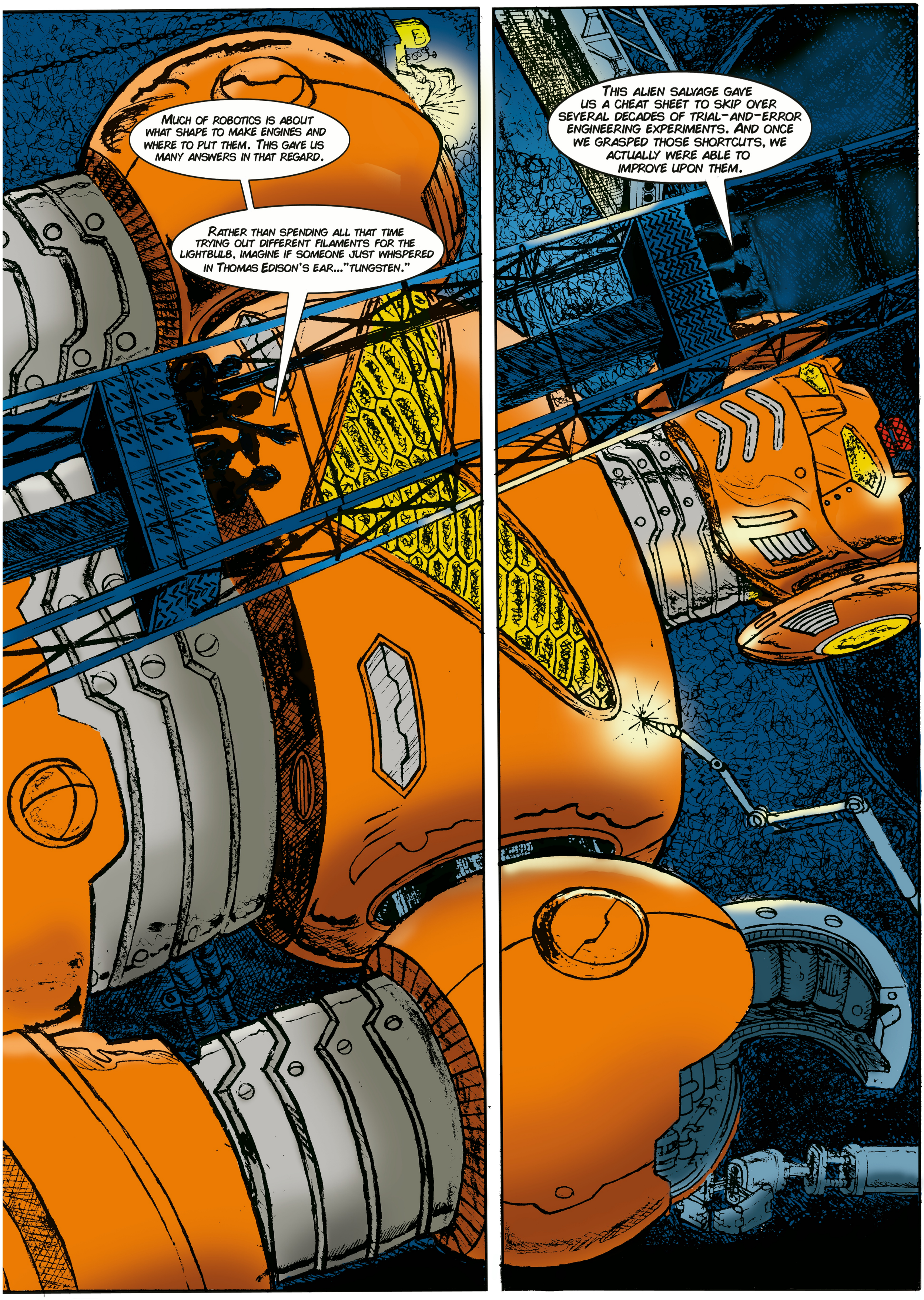

"No one can beat him. From this world or any other. He'll be perfect."
You got any harder settings?
"This is getting boring."
Oh, I think we can find a way to maintain your interest.
Good. You know, this game is actually kind of fun.

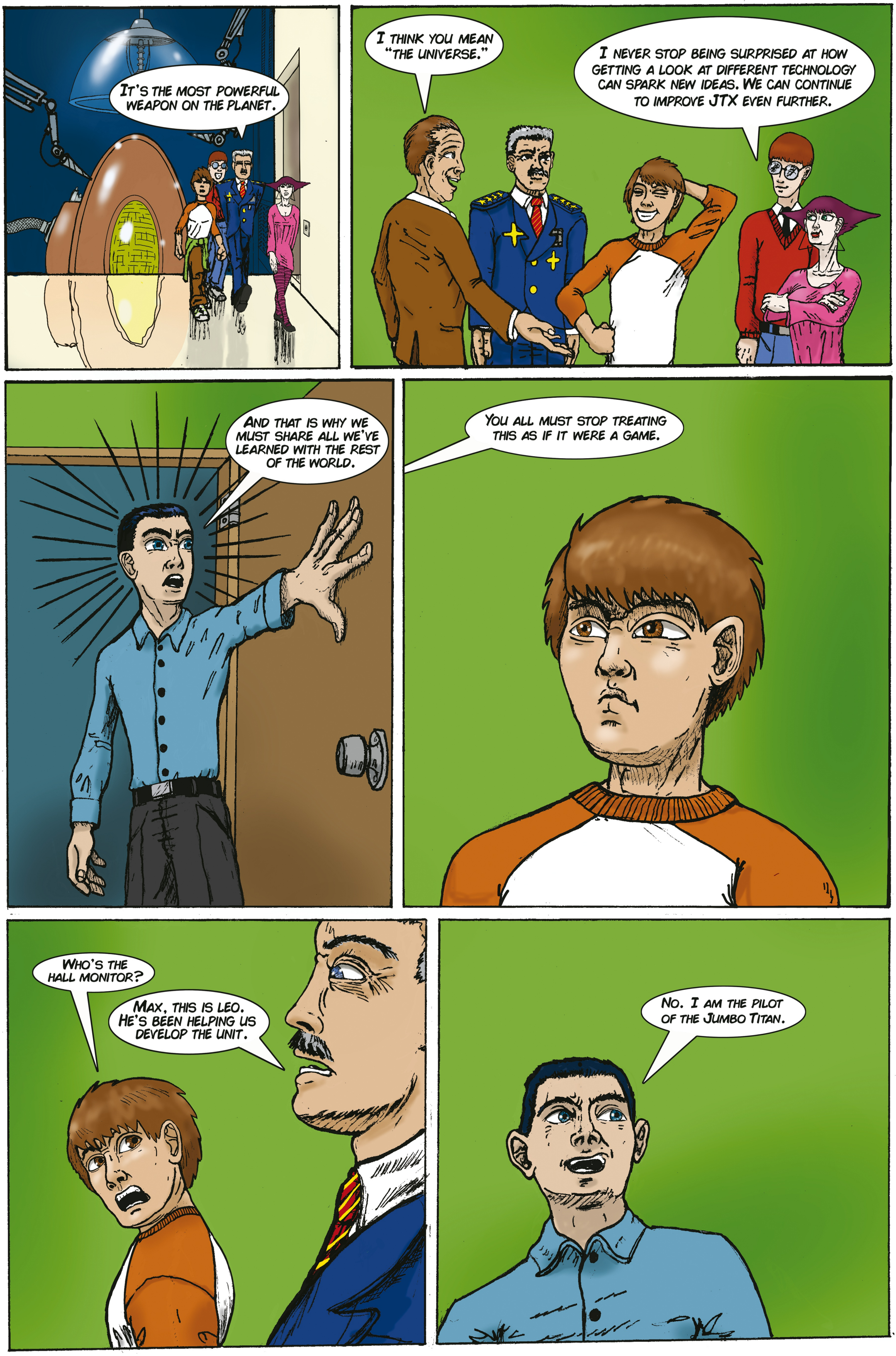

CHANGE CONTROLLERS.
THOUGHT TELEMETRY HELMET? COOL.
MAYBE I UNDERESTIMATED YOU GUYS AFTER ALL.
WE'RE STILL WORKING OUT THE KINKS. BETA-TESTING IS AN UNENDING PROCESS.
"...BUT WE HAVE BIG PLANS."
6000 POINTS

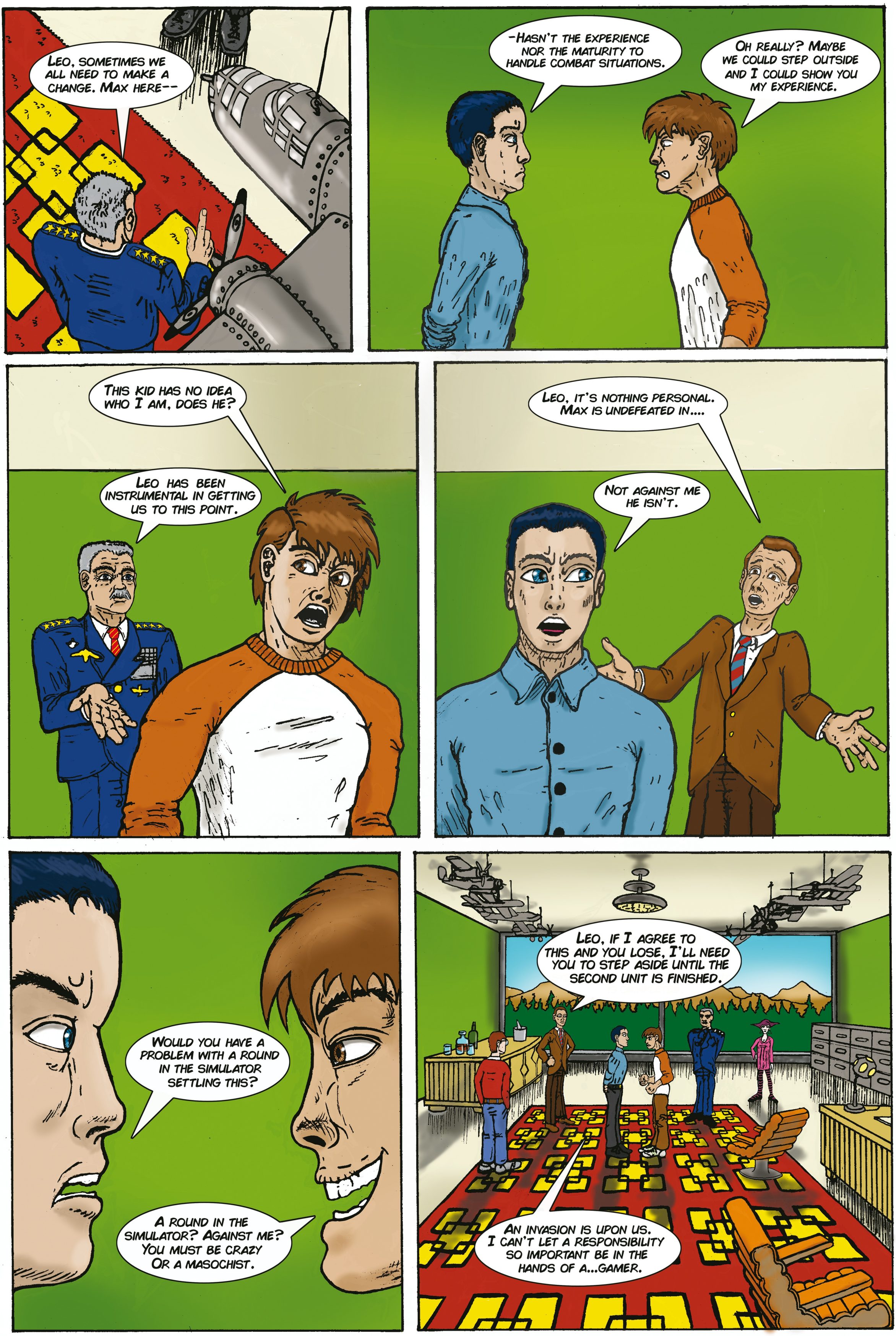

You know, General, I really didn't think the military would get into making games. At least not commercially.
My predecessors were guilty of outdated thinking. I didn't want to fall prey to that.
That's why I brought in Miguel two years ago.
I needed someone who could think outside the box. Bring some fresh ideas in here.
You're off to a great start. Maybe some tweaking is in order, but I think you've got a great game on your hands. I'd be happy to promote it.
What if I told you...
...there is no game.

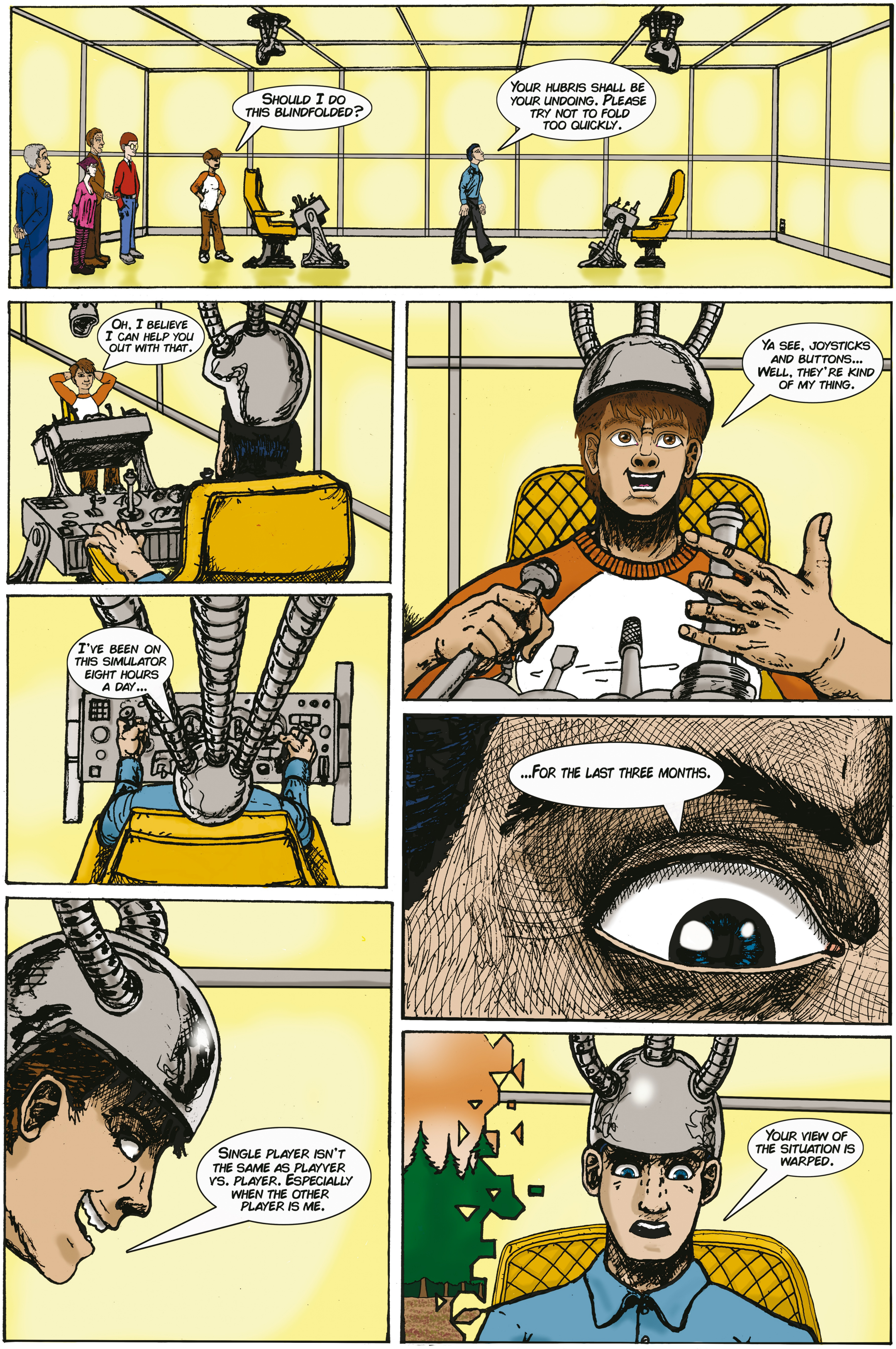

The prototype has been ready for a while now.
Although we've been training a pilot, we thought a gamer might be an ideal candidate.
And you were smart enough to go after me..
Actually, that was my idea....
...given your skill set, it seemed like a natural fit.
Professor Masterson, thank you for joining us.
Always happy to be a team player, sir.
Jeez, have you ever seen a bigger egghead than this guy?
It's so great to see you, Daddy.

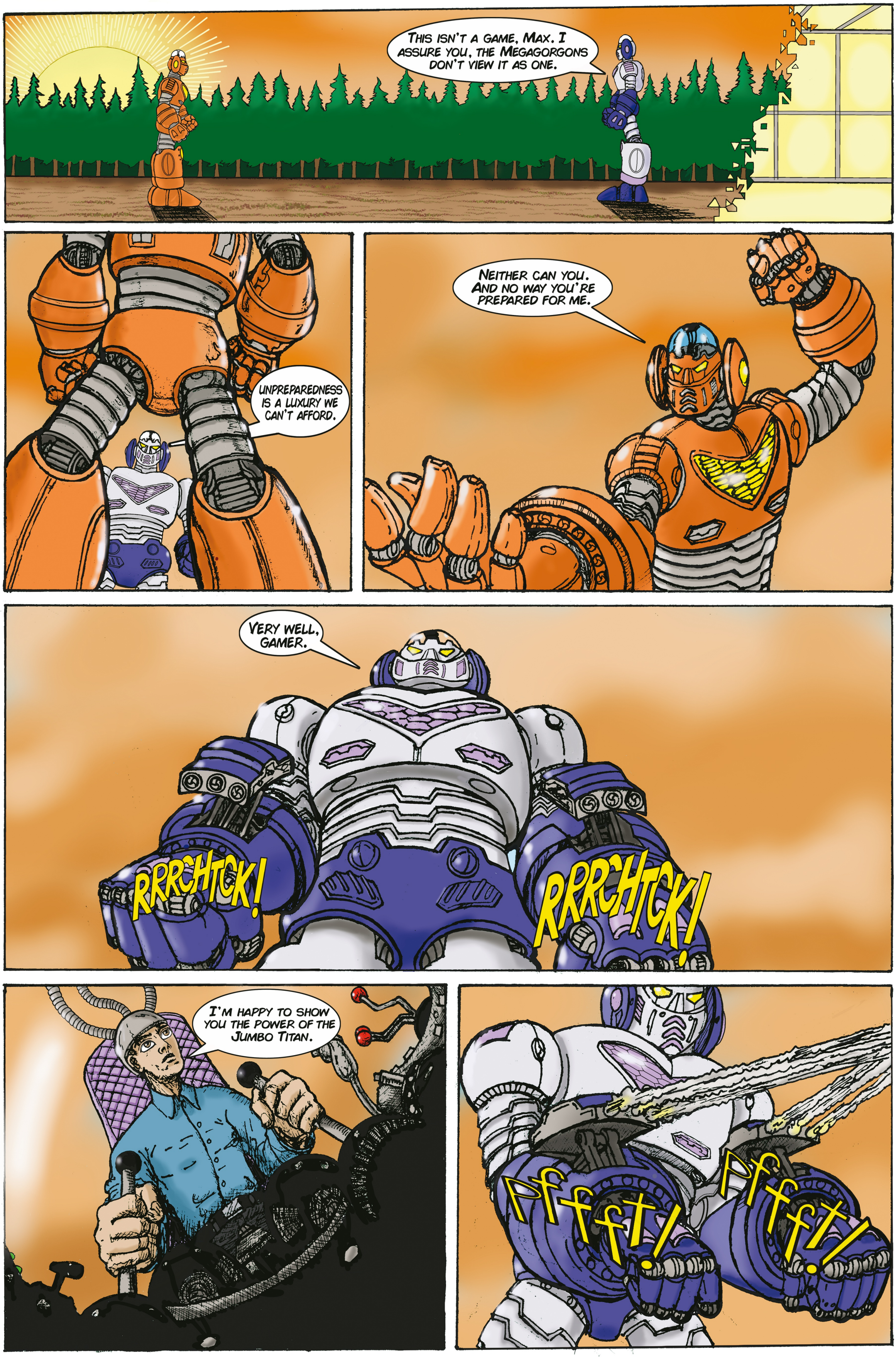

WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT PART OF THE UNIVERSE THEY CAME FROM. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THEY SURE LOVE THEIR MECHS.
THEY TRIED TO DESTRUCT IT, BUT WE MANAGED TO KEEP MOST OF IT INTACT.
SO YOU FIXED IT UP?
NOT AT ALL. AFTER STUDYING IT, WE SIMPLY BUILT OUR OWN FROM SCRATCH.
YOU'RE KIDDING.

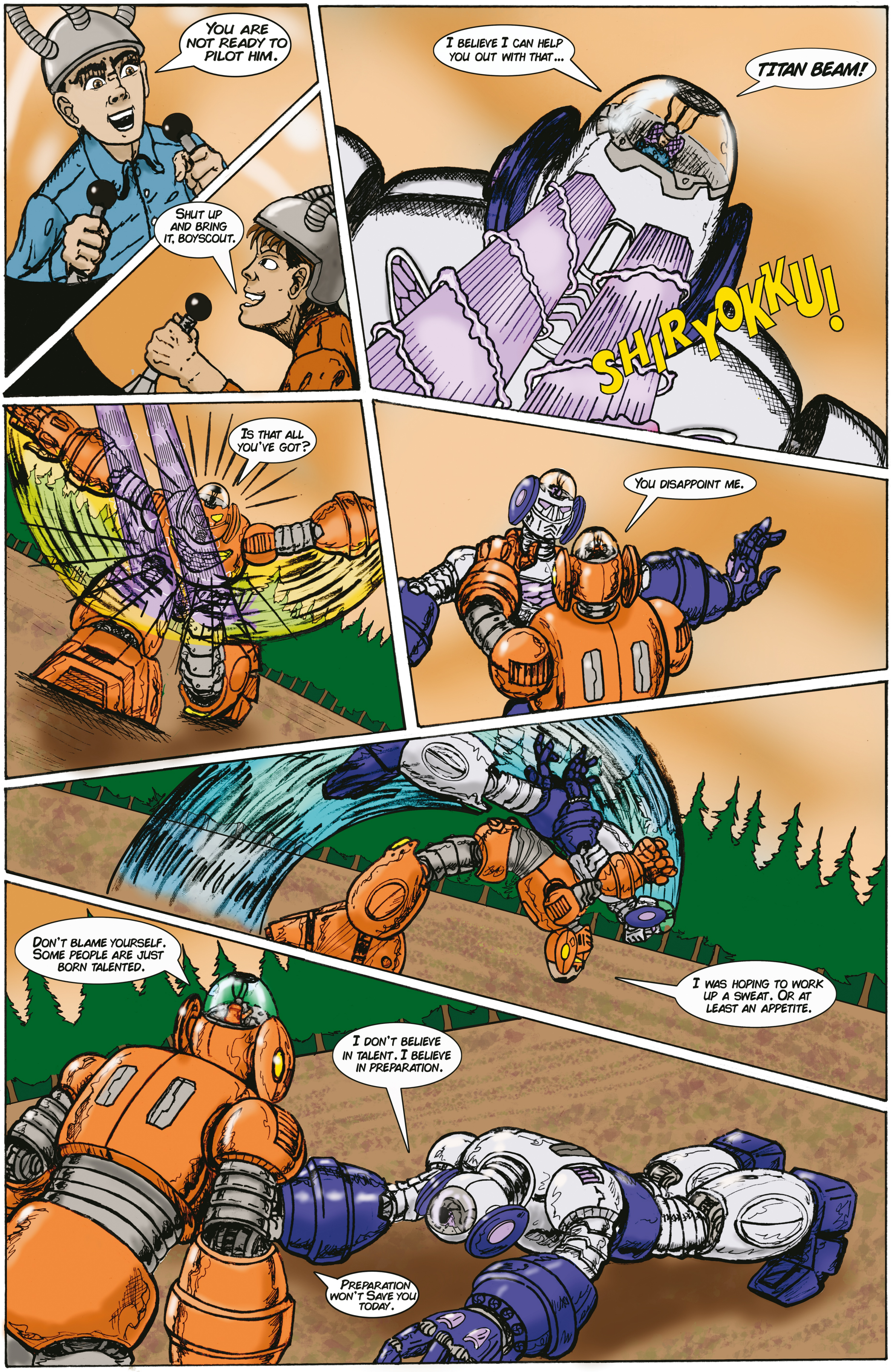

MUCH OF ROBOTICS IS ABOUT WHAT SHAPE TO MAKE ENGINES AND WHERE TO PUT THEM. THIS GAVE US MANY ANSWERS IN THAT REGARD.
RATHER THAN SPENDING ALL THAT TIME TRYING OUT DIFFERENT FILAMENTS FOR THE LIGHTBULB, IMAGINE IF SOMEONE JUST WHISPERED IN THOMAS EDISON'S EAR..."TUNGSTEN."
THIS ALIEN SALVAGE GAVE US A CHEAT SHEET TO SKIP OVER SEVERAL DECADES OF TRIAL-AND-ERROR ENGINEERING EXPERIMENTS. AND ONCE WE GRASPED THOSE SHORTCUTS, WE ACTUALLY WERE ABLE TO IMPROVE UPON THEM.

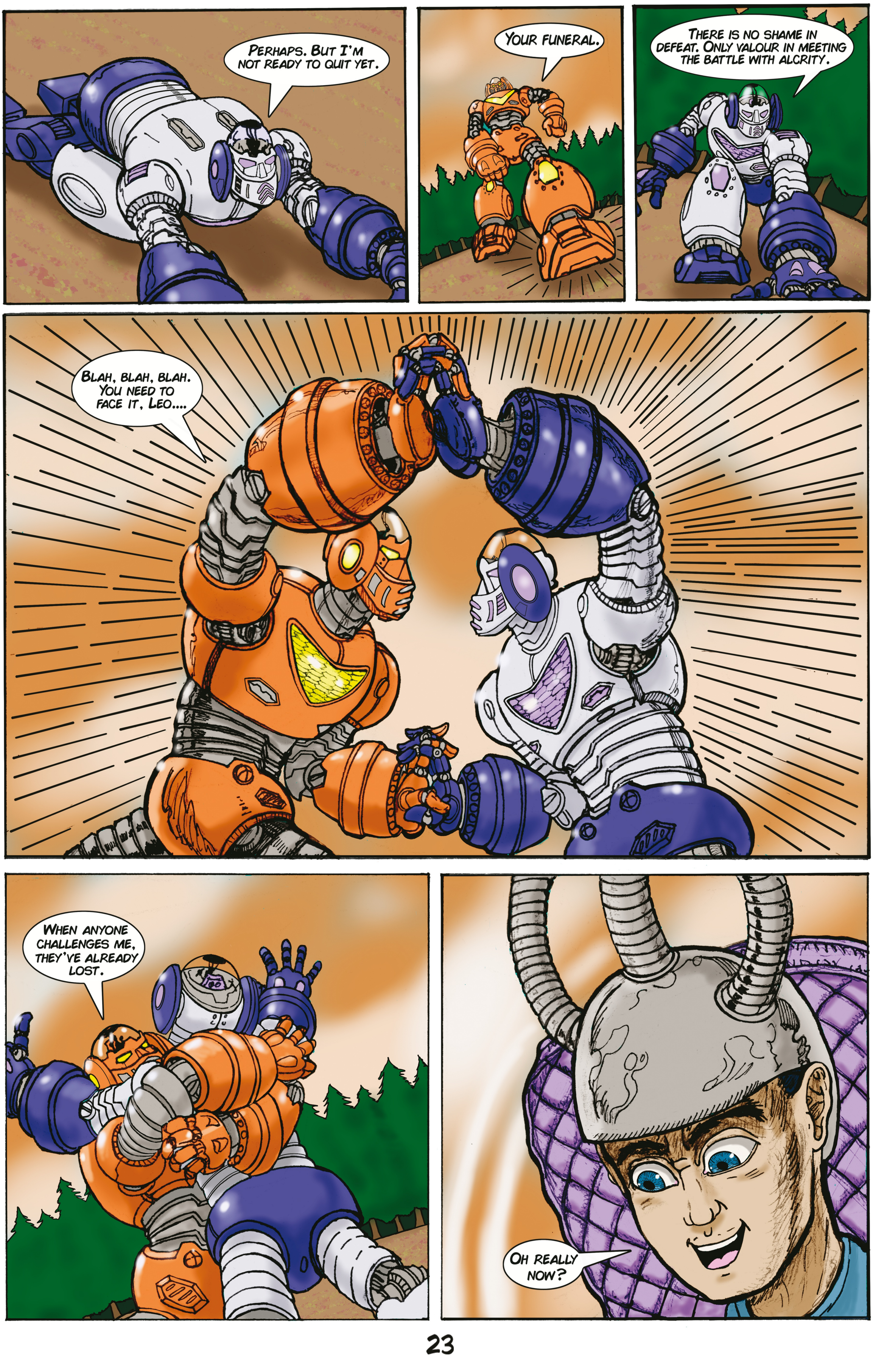

It's the most powerful weapon on the planet.
I think you mean "the universe."
I never stop being surprised at how getting a look at different technology can spark new ideas. We can continue to improve JTX even further.
And that is why we must share all we've learned with the rest of the world.
You all must stop treating this as if it were a game.
Who's the hall monitor?
Max, this is Leo. He's been helping us develop the unit.
No. I am the pilot of the Jumbo Titan.

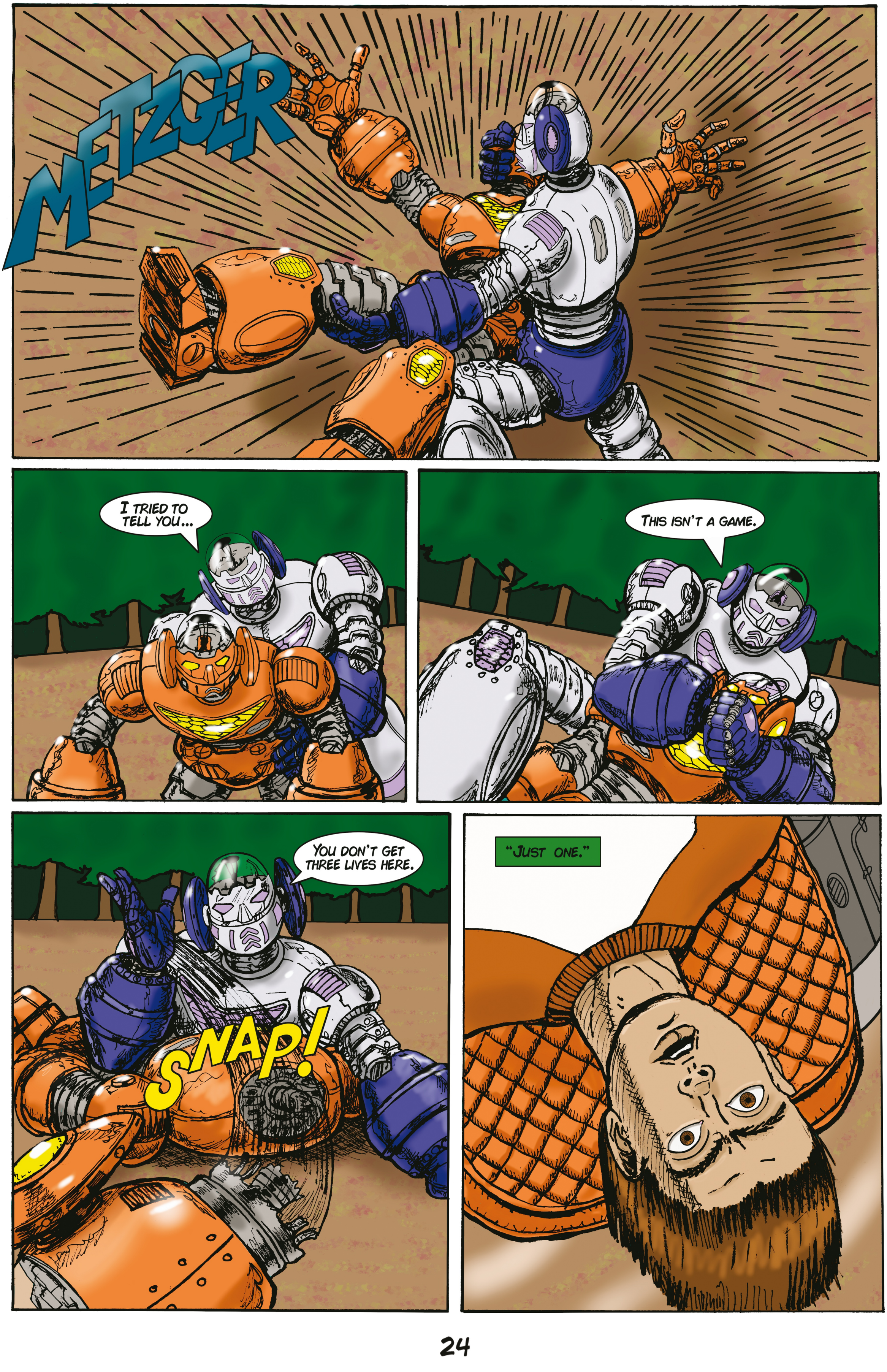

LEO, SOMETIMES WE ALL NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE. MAX HERE--
-HASN'T THE EXPERIENCE NOR THE MATURITY TO HANDLE COMBAT SITUATIONS.
OH REALLY? MAYBE WE COULD STEP OUTSIDE AND I COULD SHOW YOU MY EXPERIENCE.
THIS KID HAS NO IDEA WHO I AM, DOES HE?
LEO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING US TO THIS POINT.
LEO, IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL. MAX IS UNDEFEATED IN....
NOT AGAINST ME HE ISN'T.
WOULD YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A ROUND IN THE SIMULATOR SETTLING THIS?
A ROUND IN THE SIMULATOR? AGAINST ME? YOU MUST BE CRAZY OR A MASOCHIST.
LEO, IF I AGREE TO THIS AND YOU LOSE, I'LL NEED YOU TO STEP ASIDE UNTIL THE SECOND UNIT IS FINISHED.
AN INVASION IS UPON US. I CAN'T LET A RESPONSIBILITY SO IMPORTANT BE IN THE HANDS OF A...GAMER.

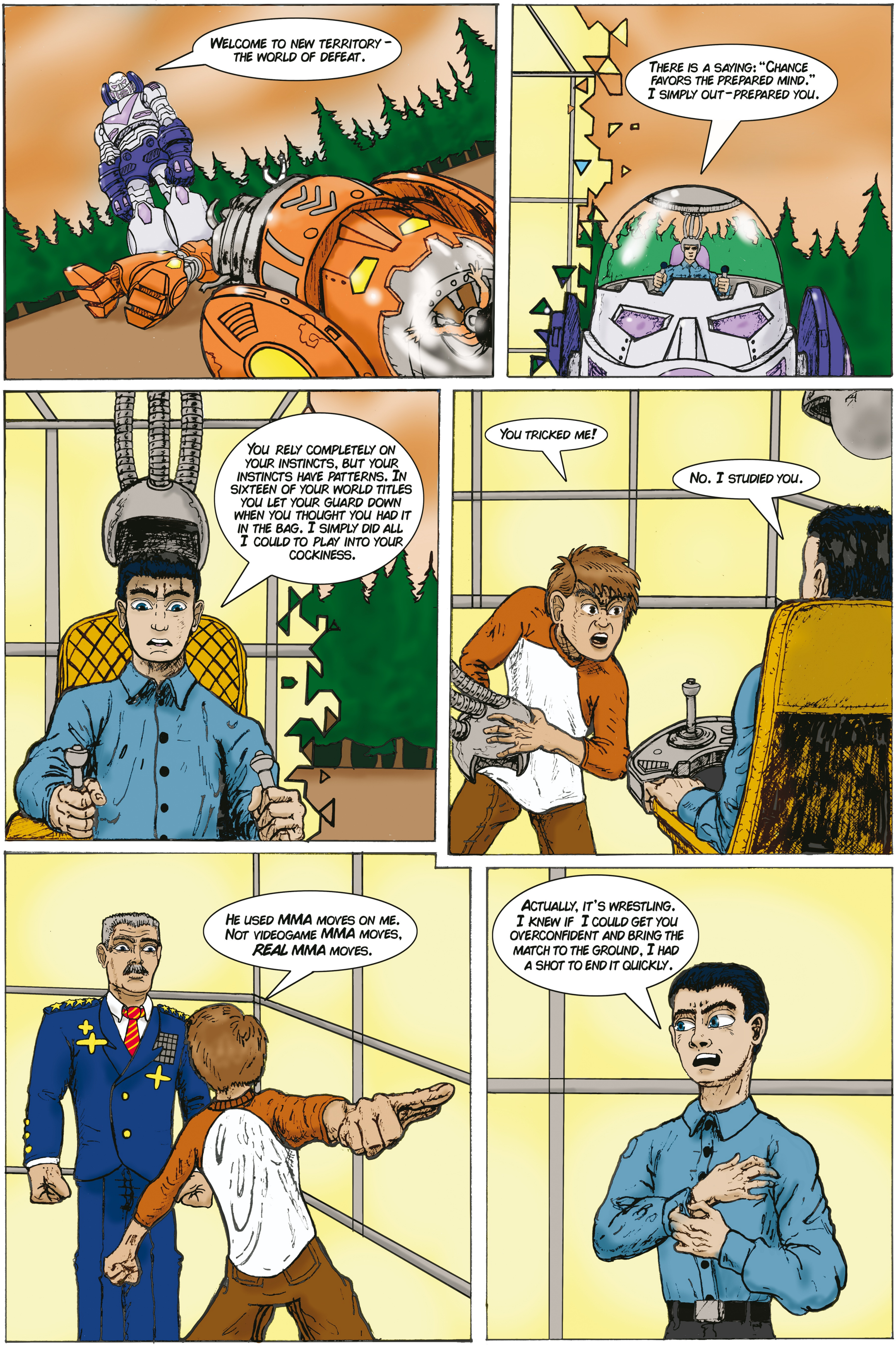

SHOULD I DO THIS BLINDFOLDED?
YOUR HUBRIS SHALL BE YOUR UNDOING. PLEASE TRY NOT TO FOLD TOO QUICKLY.
OH, I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT.
YA SEE, JOYSTICKS AND BUTTONS... WELL, THEY'RE KIND OF MY THING.
I'VE BEEN ON THIS SIMULATOR EIGHT HOURS A DAY...
...FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS.
SINGLE PLAYER ISN'T THE SAME AS PLAYYER VS. PLAYER. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE OTHER PLAYER IS ME.
YOUR VIEW OF THE SITUATION IS WARPED.

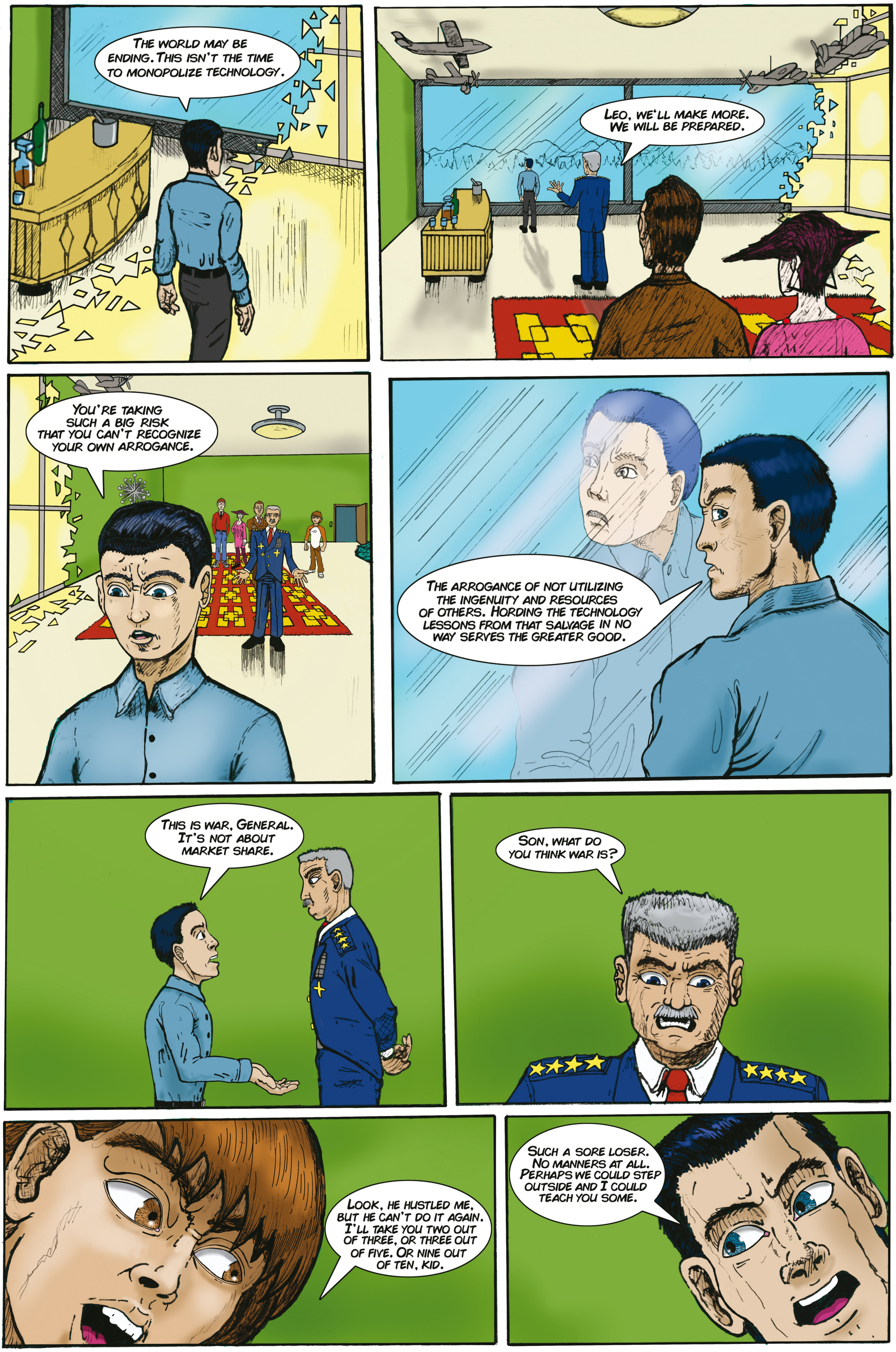

THIS ISN'T A GAME, MAX. I ASSURE YOU, THE MEGAGORGONS DON'T VIEW IT AS ONE.
UNPREPAREDNESS IS A LUXURY WE CAN'T AFFORD.
NEITHER CAN YOU. AND NO WAY YOU'RE PREPARED FOR ME.
VERY WELL, GAMER.
RRRCHTCK!
RRRCHTCK!
I'M HAPPY TO SHOW YOU THE POWER OF THE JUMBO TITAN.
Pffft!
Pffft!

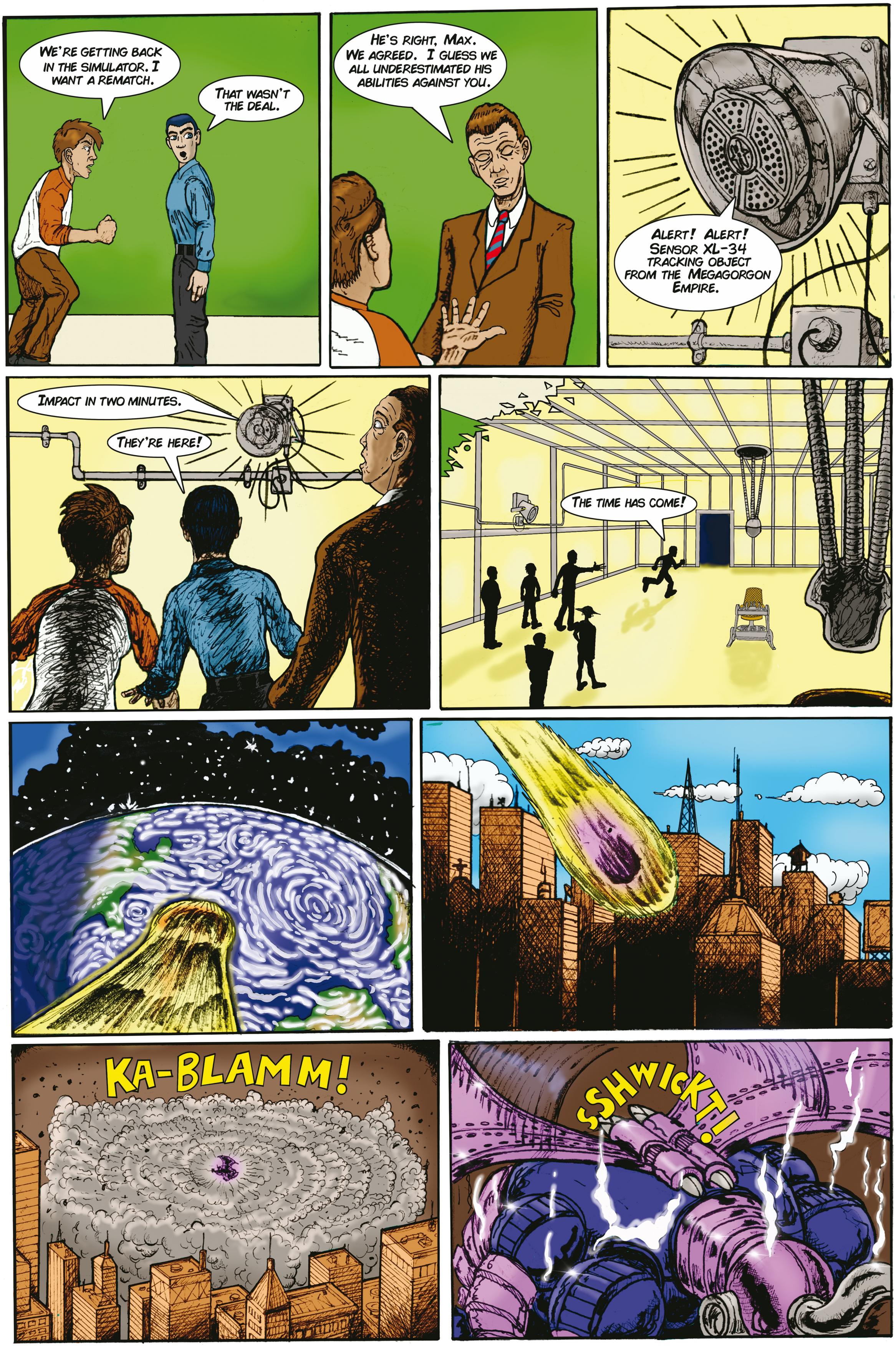

You are not ready to pilot him.
Shut up and bring it, boyscout.
I believe I can help you out with that...
TITAN BEAM!
SHIRYOKKU!
Is that all you've got?
You disappoint me.
I was hoping to work up a sweat. Or at least an appetite.
Don't blame yourself. Some people are just born talented.
I don't believe in talent. I believe in preparation.
Preparation won't save you today.

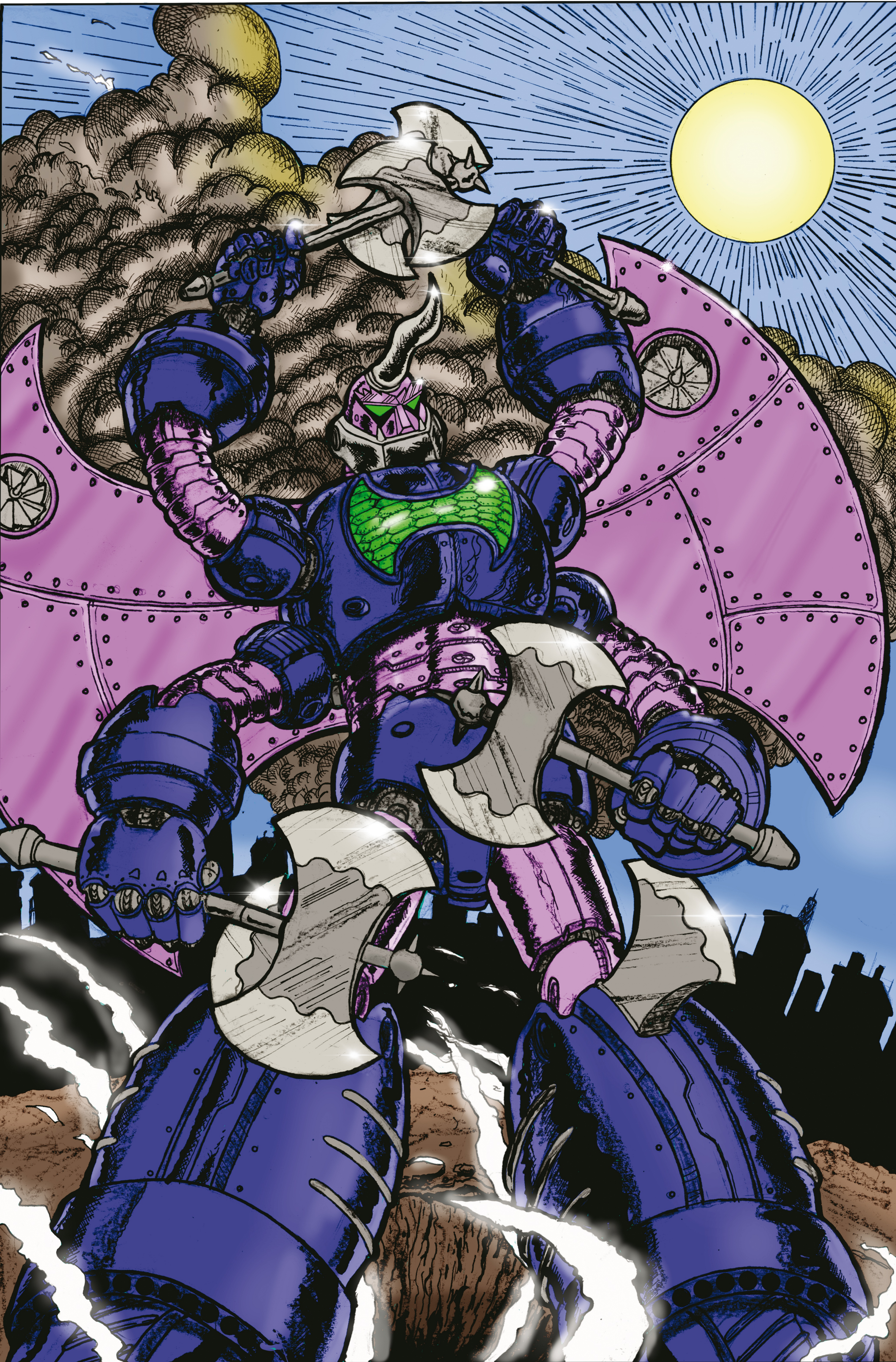

PERHAPS. BUT I'M NOT READY TO QUIT YET.
YOUR FUNERAL.
THERE IS NO SHAME IN DEFEAT. ONLY VALOUR IN MEETING THE BATTLE WITH ALCRITY.
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. YOU NEED TO FACE IT, LEO....
WHEN ANYONE CHALLENGES ME, THEY'VE ALREADY LOST.
OH REALLY NOW?

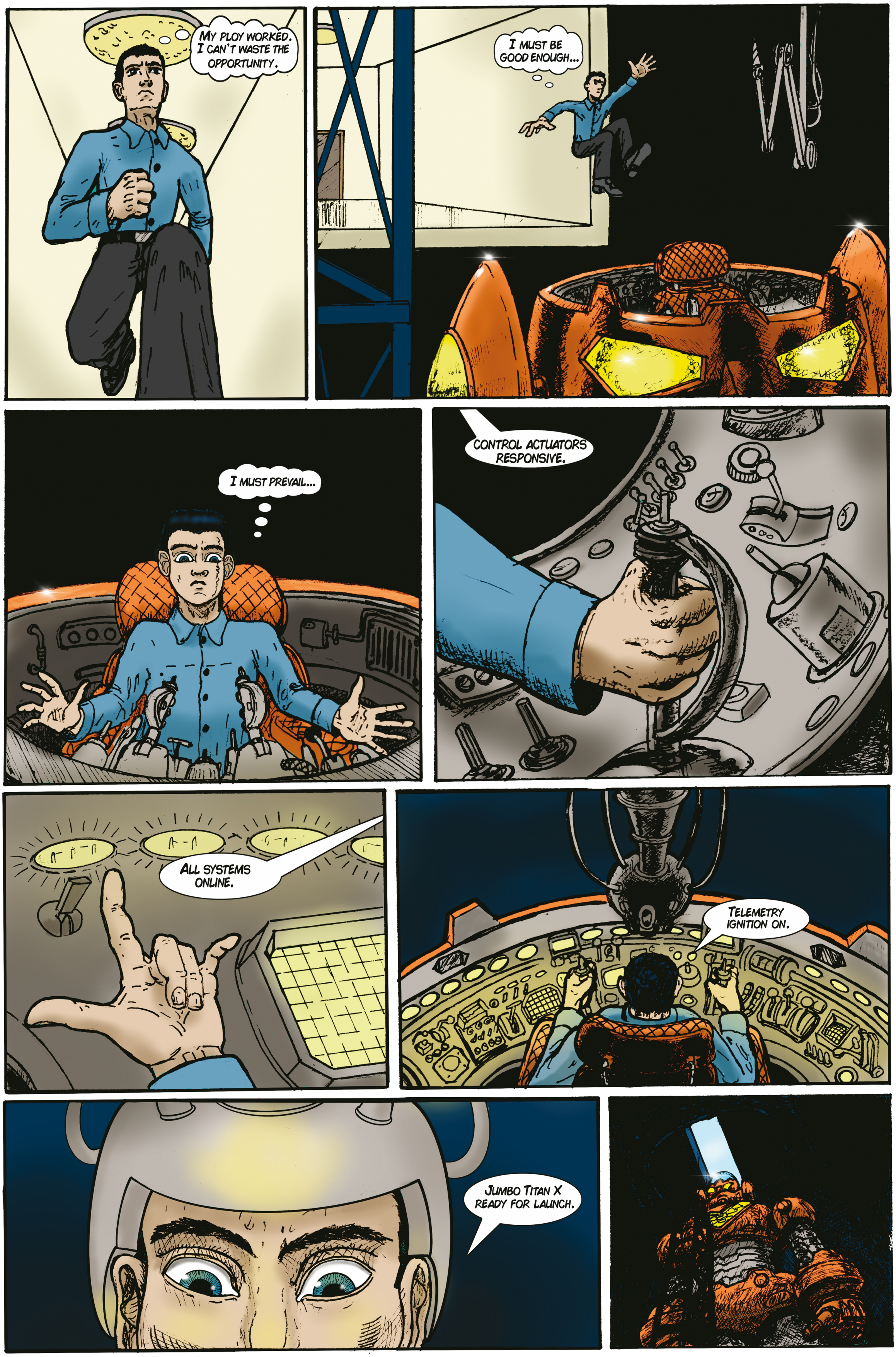

METZGER
I TRIED TO TELL YOU...
THIS ISN'T A GAME.
YOU DON'T GET THREE LIVES HERE.
SNAP!
"JUST ONE."

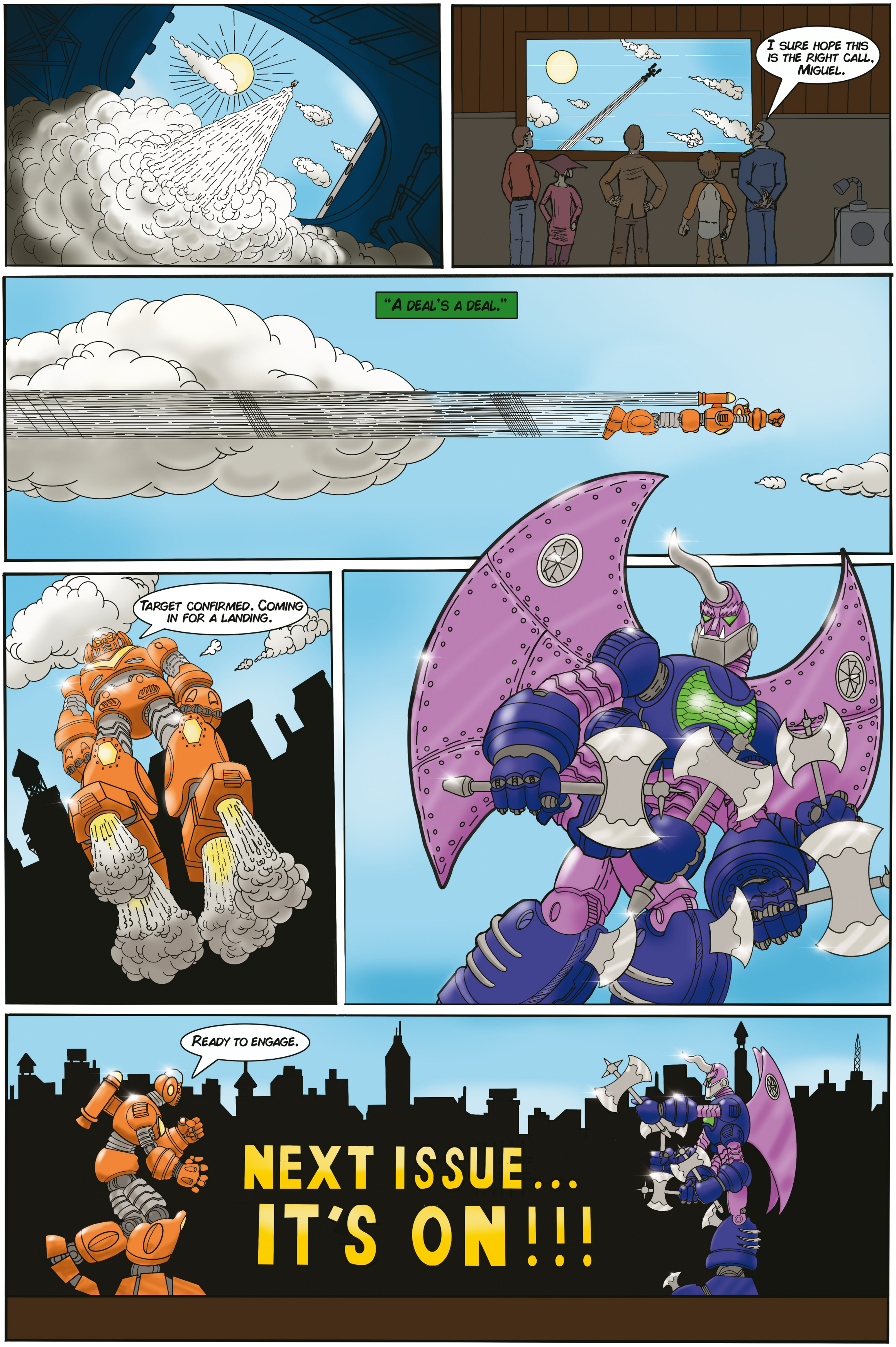

WELCOME TO NEW TERRITORY – THE WORLD OF DEFEAT.
THERE IS A SAYING: "CHANCE FAVORS THE PREPARED MIND." I SIMPLY OUT-PREPARED YOU.
YOU RELY COMPLETELY ON YOUR INSTINCTS, BUT YOUR INSTINCTS HAVE PATTERNS. IN SIXTEEN OF YOUR WORLD TITLES YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD IT IN THE BAG. I SIMPLY DID ALL I COULD TO PLAY INTO YOUR COCKINESS.
YOU TRICKED ME!
NO. I STUDIED YOU.
HE USED MMA MOVES ON ME. NOT VIDEOGAME MMA MOVES, REAL MMA MOVES.
ACTUALLY, IT'S WRESTLING. I KNEW IF I COULD GET YOU OVERCONFIDENT AND BRING THE MATCH TO THE GROUND, I HAD A SHOT TO END IT QUICKLY.


THE WORLD MAY BE ENDING. THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO MONOPOLIZE TECHNOLOGY.
LEO, WE'LL MAKE MORE. WE WILL BE PREPARED.
YOU'RE TAKING SUCH A BIG RISK THAT YOU CAN'T RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN ARROGANCE.
THE ARROGANCE OF NOT UTILIZING THE INGENUITY AND RESOURCES OF OTHERS. HORDING THE TECHNOLOGY LESSONS FROM THAT SALVAGE IN NO WAY SERVES THE GREATER GOOD.
THIS IS WAR, GENERAL. IT'S NOT ABOUT MARKET SHARE.
SON, WHAT DO YOU THINK WAR IS?
LOOK, HE HUSTLED ME, BUT HE CAN'T DO IT AGAIN. I'LL TAKE YOU TWO OUT OF THREE, OR THREE OUT OF FIVE. OR NINE OUT OF TEN, KID.
SUCH A SORE LOSER. NO MANNERS AT ALL. PERHAPS WE COULD STEP OUTSIDE AND I COULD TEACH YOU SOME.


WE'RE GETTING BACK IN THE SIMULATOR. I WANT A REMATCH.
THAT WASN'T THE DEAL.
HE'S RIGHT, MAX. WE AGREED. I GUESS WE ALL UNDERESTIMATED HIS ABILITIES AGAINST YOU.
ALERT! ALERT! SENSOR XL-34 TRACKING OBJECT FROM THE MEGAGORGON EMPIRE.
IMPACT IN TWO MINUTES.
THEY'RE HERE!
THE TIME HAS COME!
KA-BLAMM!
SSHWICKT!

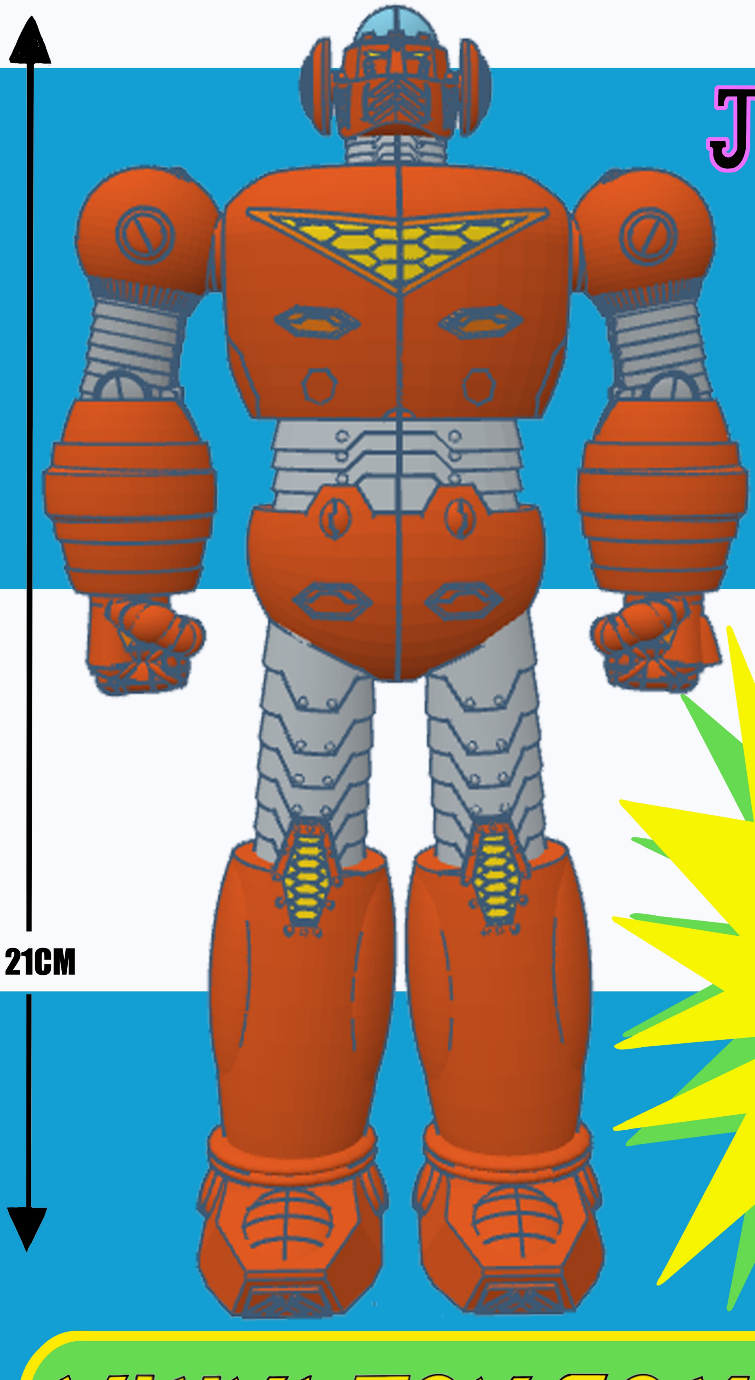



My ploy worked. I can't waste the opportunity.
I must be good enough...
I must prevail...
Control actuators responsive.
All systems online.
Telemetry ignition on.
Jumbo Titan X ready for launch.


I SURE HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT CALL, MIGUEL.
"A DEAL'S A DEAL."
TARGET CONFIRMED. COMING IN FOR A LANDING.
READY TO ENGAGE.
NEXT ISSUE...
IT'S ON!!!

# ジャンボタイタンX

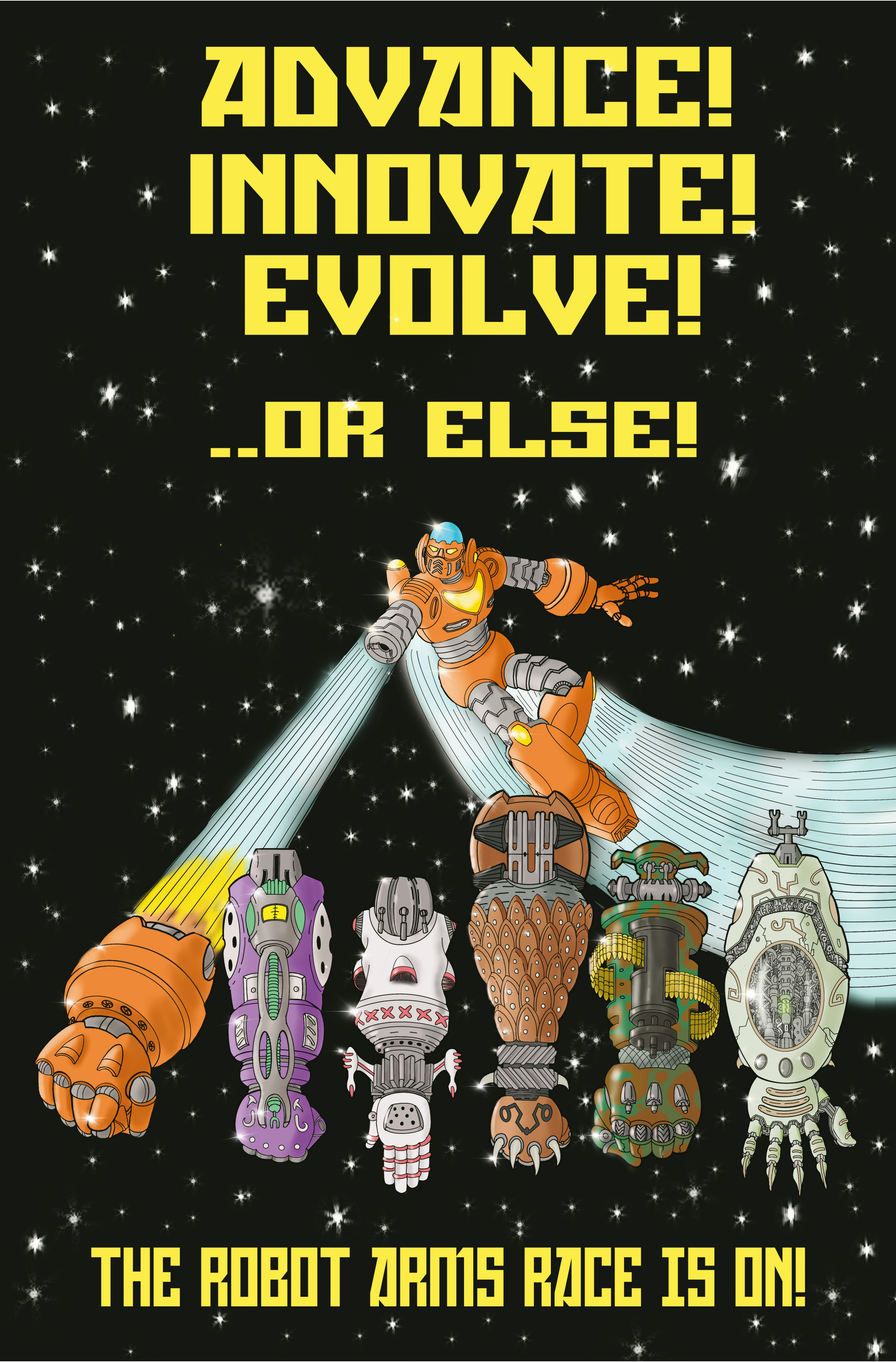
## スタンダード サイズ ソフビ

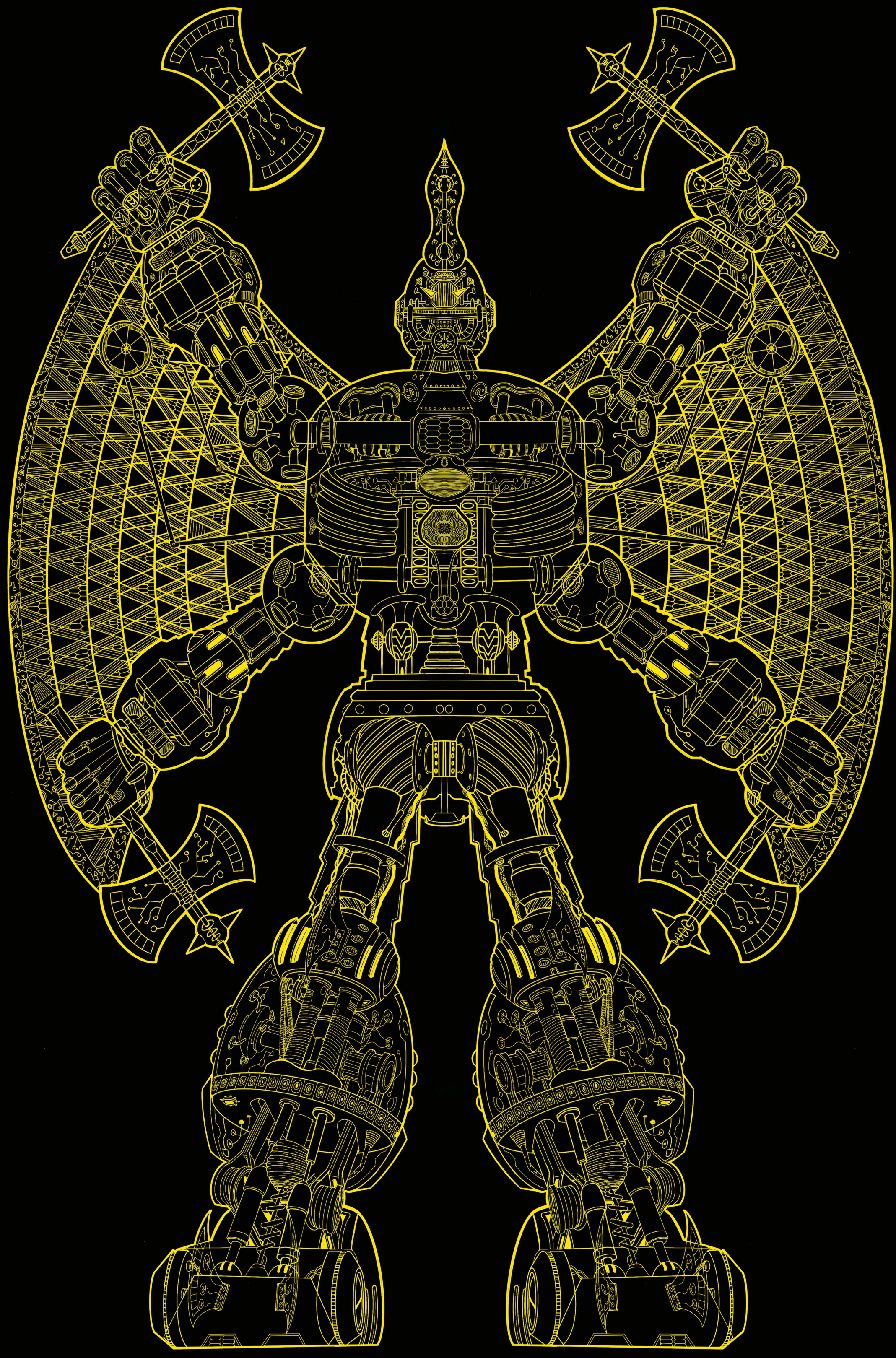


## JTX-001

THE TOY ARMS RACE BEGINS NOW!

## VINYL TOY COMING SOON


ADVANCE!
INNOVATE!
EVOLVE!
..OR ELSE!
THE ROBOT ARMS RACE IS ON!



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